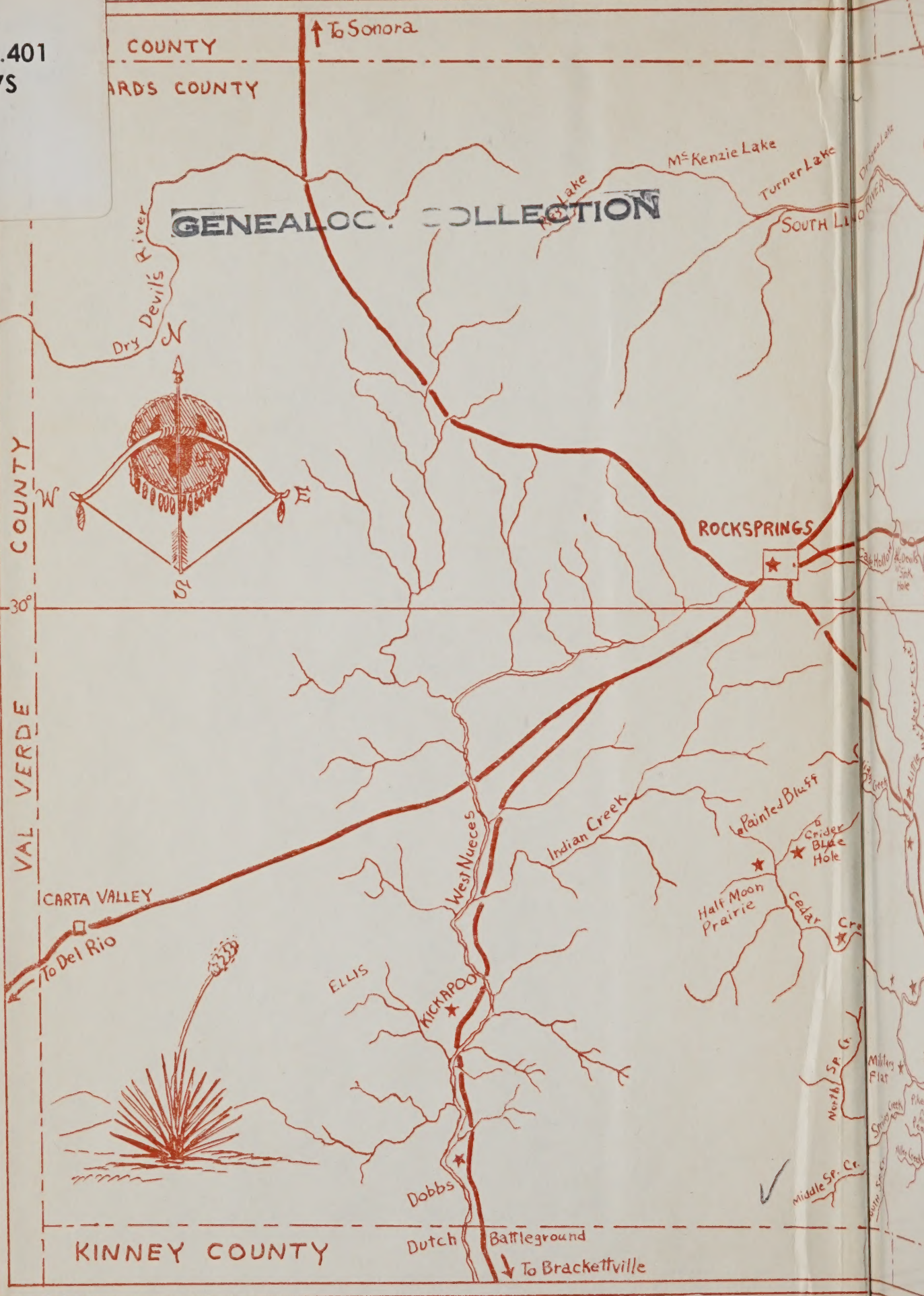
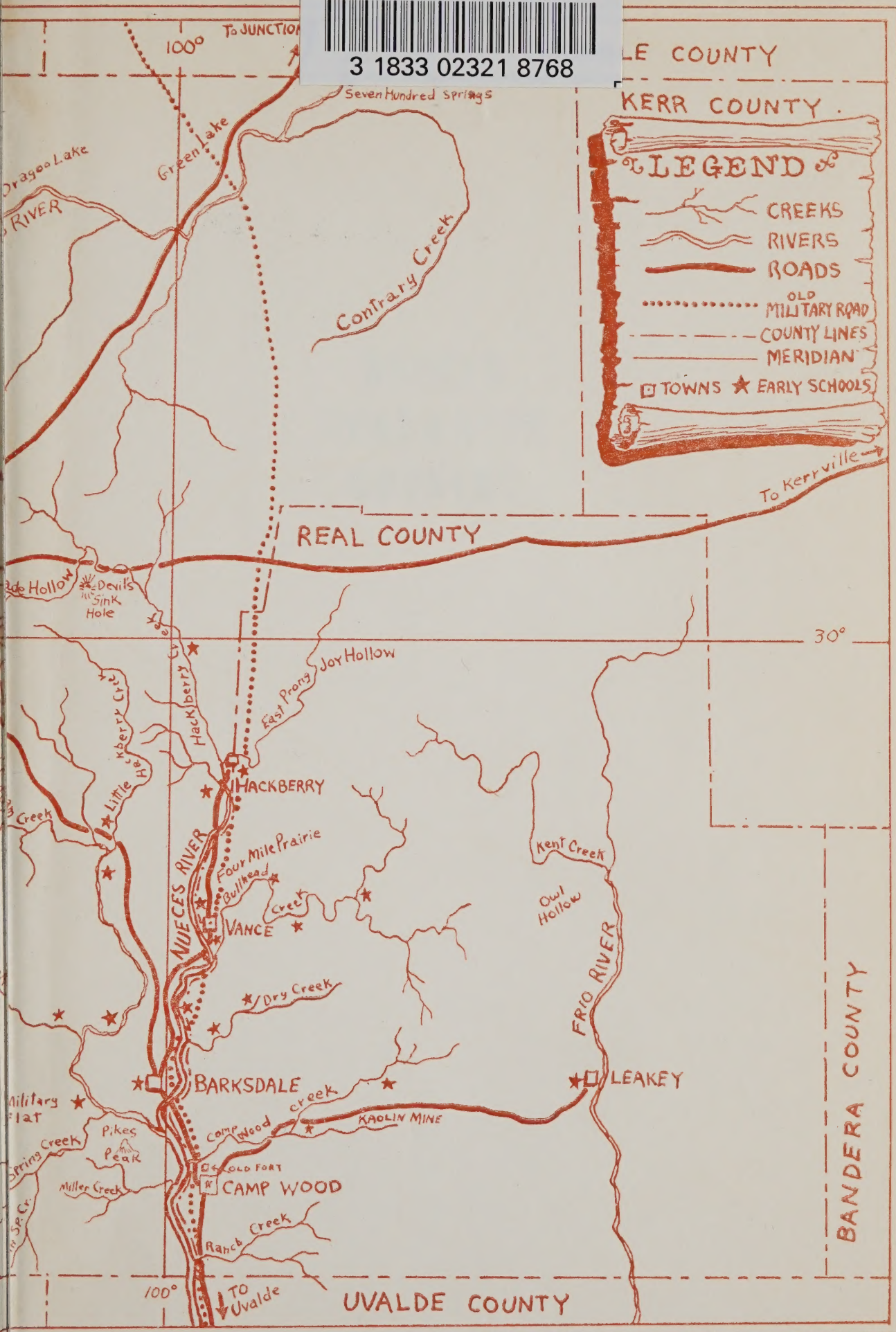


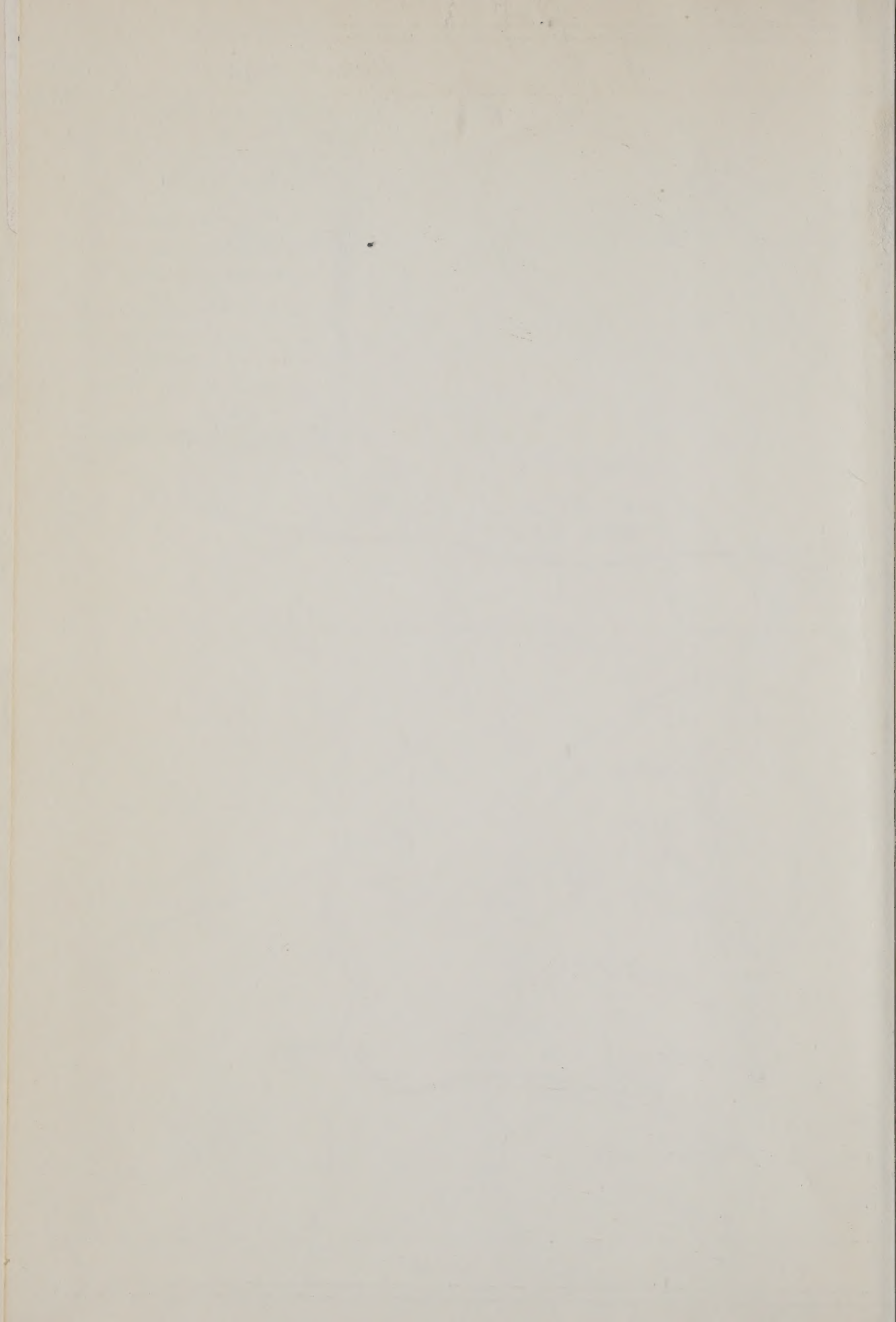
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**NUECES
HEADWATER
COUNTRY**

NECES
HEADWATER
COUNTRY

NUECES HEADWATER COUNTRY

A Regional History
By ALLAN A. STOVALL

Illustrations by James T. Jones

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Publishers of the Southwest
San Antonio, Texas

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To the Two Dans,
Rev. Daniel Shaw Stovall
and
Daniel Webster Roberts,
this book is affectionately dedicated

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Acknowledgments

The material used in this book has been gathered from many sources. It would be impossible for lack of space to include within the limits of the volume the names of all the people from whom the author has received material. Scores of people have been interviewed personally, and to each of them the author expresses his sincere thanks.

Much of the material in the book has been taken from copies of the local newspaper files, where it could be found in its proper time setting. The files of the *Uvalde Leader-News* from the year 1900 to the year 1940 have been examined, and a large quantity of valuable material gathered there. The back issues of the *Texas Mohair Weekly* of Rocksprings, Texas, from the year 1927 to the year 1958, have been reviewed, and they have yielded an accurate chronological synopsis of events that happened between those dates. For the use of these materials, the writer expresses his deepest gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Harry Hornby, Jr., publisher and editor of the *Uvalde Leader-News*, and his staff; and to Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hutt, Jr., publishers and editors of the *Texas Mohair Weekly*.

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The author is indebted to Mrs. Virgil Durnell, Houston, Texas, for the use of certain material compiled by her mother, the late Byrd Pearce Hamilton, a writer of some distinction, who at one time lived on the Five Oaks ranch near Montell, Texas.

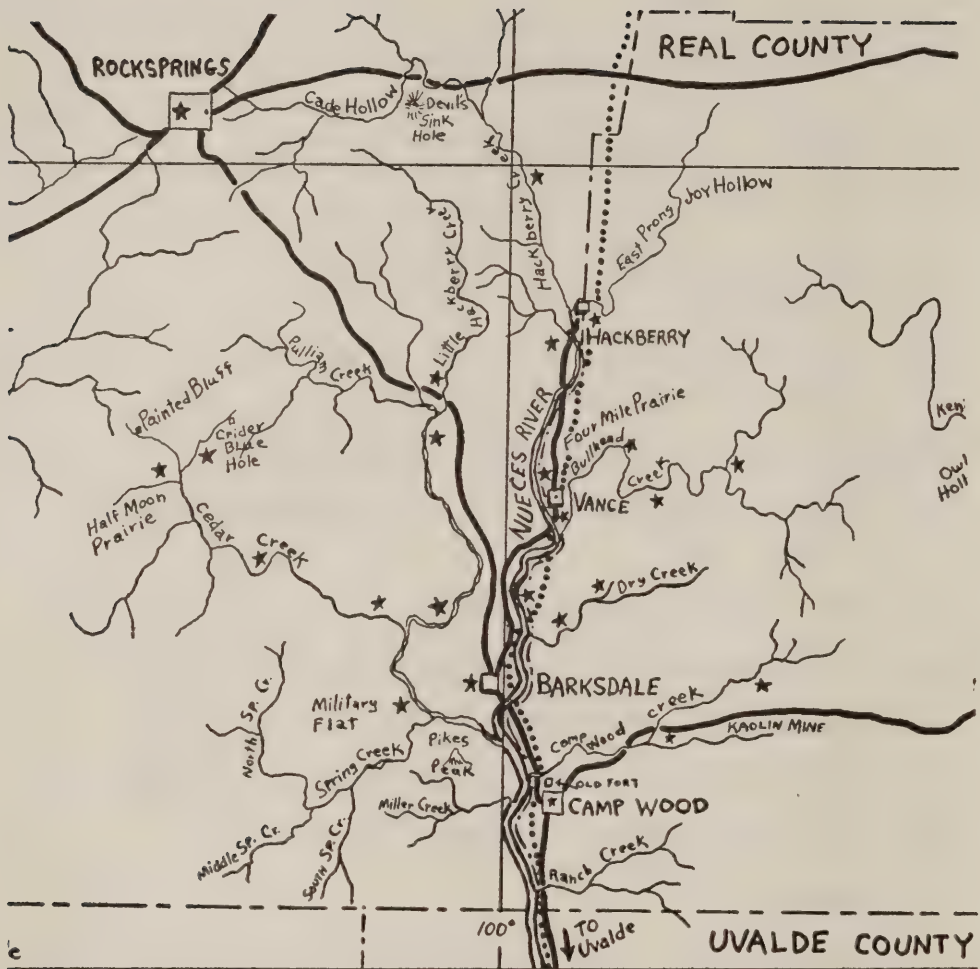
The writer expresses his thanks to Mr. Ed. (Froggie) Adams, Devine, Texas, for material concerning the history of the Rocksprings country.

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Introduction

At the foot of the Edwards Plateau, where the Llano Escabado breaks southward in a thousand little rills to join the upper Nueces Valley, is to be found a land rich in scenic beauty and blushing in the magnificence of nature's own loveliness. These many little valleys were settled by a courageous, liberty-loving band of pioneers who carved homes and established a social order adapted to their own ideals. Here grew and developed a type of western pioneer who was loyal, brave, and devoted to his country and the things for which it stood. In every situation and crisis, these people have held firmly to those ideals. Someone has aptly remarked that the pioneer group constituted the staunchest and most persevering of the people of the early days, because, in the settlement of the frontier, the cowards never did start out, and the weaklings dropped out along the way. It was by such a resolute and determined segment of folk that the Nueces Valley and the Edwards Plateau regions were settled, and from that indomitable group has sprung the leadership that has carried the Edwards County and Nueces Valley areas to heights of accomplishment that are surpassed by no other group in the land. This story is a record of the achievements of those people.

As far back as 1859, the records make mention of the unorganized county of Edwards. At that time, it was surveyed by a man named Charles de Schudenmontell, who was employed and sent out by the State of Texas for the purpose of locating its boundaries. Other reports about the region were made from time to time after that date.

The *Texas Almanac* for the year 1860 says:

Edwards County is situated upon the headwaters of the Rio Frio, the Medina, the Guadalupe, the east and west forks of the Nueces, the Devil's River, and Paint Rock Creek, a tributary to the Llano, and lies west of Kerr and Bandera counties, being situated on the border of the plains, and is the fountainhead of the above named streams. The surface of this county is very broken in its southern part, cut up in rocky hills and ravines. Some valleys along the above streams and their tributaries afford all the land suit-

able for agriculture, but the whole presents a very good stock range. (Edwards County, *Texas Almanac*, 1860, p. 169)

Edwards County lies about one hundred miles northwest of San Antonio, area 966 square miles. It is attached to Kerr County for judicial purposes. The population in 1880 was 260. There was no assessment of taxable property. The county is generally an extended high, rolling prairie, broken in the southern part by ranges of low, rugged, rocky hills between the valleys of the smaller streams, which constitute the headwaters of the Nueces River. On the borders of these valleys are large bodies of mountain cedar, and in the valleys are scattered growths of pecan, live oak, post oak, white oak, and hackberry, about one-fifth of the area being covered with timber of medium size. Wild grapes, cherries, and pecans are found in abundance in the valleys. The county is watered by the east and middle forks of the Nueces, the West Fork of the Frio, and the south Llano, and by Cedar, Bull's Head, and Hackberry creeks. The east fork of the Nueces River flows a distance of about 30 miles within its limits, and has an average width of channel of 30 feet, and both it and Bull's Head Creek are bold, constantly running streams. There are a large number of springs of cold, pure water, and wells are obtained at depths ranging from 15 to 30 feet. The county is covered with a luxuriant growth of mesquite grass, which affords fine pasturage, winter and summer, and stock keep sufficiently fat for market the year 'round. The Mexican Pacific extension of the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway, recently completed, runs nearly parallel with and within 35 miles of the southern boundary of the county. (A. W. Spaight, Commissioner: *The Resources, Soil and Climate of Texas*. Galveston: A. H. Bilo and Co., Printers. 1882, p. 352)

The western boundary of this county joins Crockett County, and it is upon the 30th degree of latitude north, and between the 22nd and 23rd degrees of longitude west. The south fork of the Llano River penetrates its northern section. The county contains about 1000 square miles of excellent land which is wholly undeveloped. It is adapted to a large variety of productions and at some future time will become one of the most prosperous of Western Texas counties. It has an elevation of from 1400 to 2450 feet and a healthful and charming climate. The rainfall is fair and the county abounds in springs and creeks. The lands are at present held at nominal prices and offer a good investment. (*Southern and Western Texas Guide for 1878*, James L. Rock and W. I. South, authors. St. Louis, Mo., A. H. Granger, publisher, 1878, pp. 66-67)

This county is attached to Bandera County for judicial purposes. It is chiefly noted for its mountain cedar, cold springs, and big rocks. Very few, if any, have had the temerity to try to live there. (*Texas Almanac*, 1867 — p. 104. "Edwards County—Unorganized," by James E. Ranche, Rep.)

Edwards County has an area of 1960 square miles or 1,254,400 acres of land. It has within its borders some 150 miles of running streams fed by many thousands of springs scattered here and there in the county. Waters from the public square of Rocksprings, the county seat of Edwards County, drain into four different streams, all of which are widely separated. To the east the waters drain into the Nueces. To the south the drainage is into the west fork of the Nueces. To the west, waters drain into the Devil's River, while the Llano receives the waters that drain to the northeast. In fact, the waters that drain from the county courthouse square in Rocksprings flow into the Nueces and the Llano rivers.

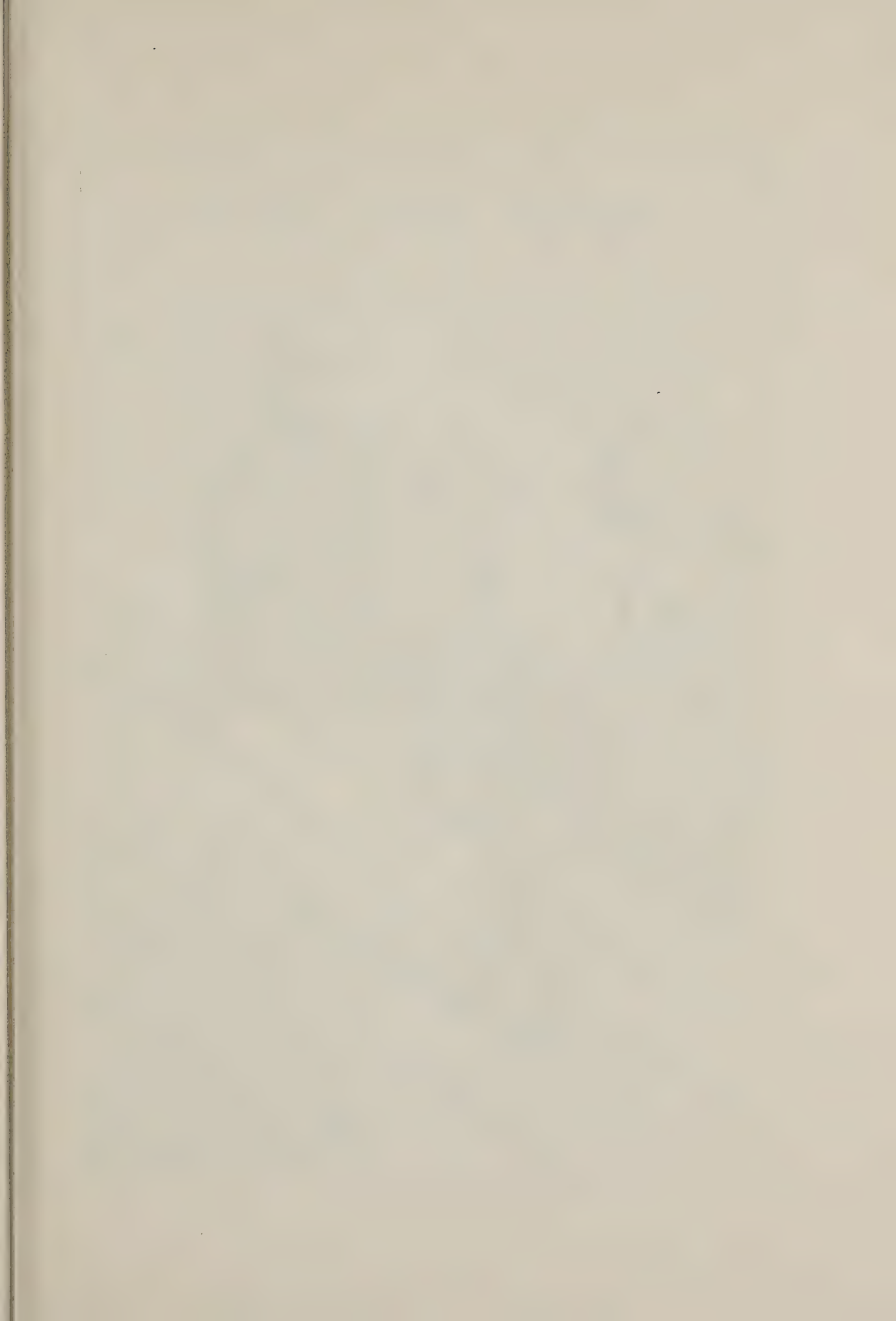
The Nueces River rises in the Edwards Plateau and flows in a southerly course to empty its waters into the Gulf of Mexico. As this story is concerned with one part of the Nueces River and of the Edwards Plateau region, the writer will describe briefly the very early facts about the region to serve as a background for this narrative.

The watershed of the Nueces River was first the home of the Jumano Indians, a branch of the Comanche tribe. Later the Lipan Indians considered the region to be a part of their hunting grounds. Those people hunted the buffalo, the bear, the deer, and other wild game over much of the country drained by the Upper Nueces.

The first white men to see the Nueces River were members of Cabeza de Vaca's band. Cabeza de Vaca was looking for gold when he led his small band of Spanish soldiers across the plains of Texas, but it is doubtful that his quest for gold along the Nueces yielded his men any considerable amount of that precious metal.

In 1542, Moscoso's Spanish expedition crossed the Nueces River. The first semi-permanent white men in the area were a priest by the name of Salas and a group of soldiers in 1629. The Christianizing of the Indians failed at that time. Spaniards then began to raid the Indians, hearing that gold and pearls were in abundance in the area. The old name of the river was Rio de las Perlas. It is not definitely known when the stream was first called the Nueces. The word *Nueces*

is Spanish, and the literal translation of the word is *nut*, but is generally used to refer to the pecan specifically. The settlement of San Antonio in 1718 was probably the opening of the country to settlement; however, as late as 1845 the area occupied by Uvalde County was sparsely settled. It was still the hunting ground of the Comanche Indians.





CHAPTER I

The Canyon Missions—1750-1850

The history of the upper Nueces Canyon begins with the establishment of the Canyon missions. The earliest of these missions were *Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria* at Montell and *San Lorenzo de la Santa Cruz* at Camp Wood. The mission at Montell, which has also been called the *San Bruno* Mission, was established in 1762, and finished in 1766. It was the first of the two missions to be built. At the time of its founding, it was one of the first, if not *the* first, buildings in West Texas. This mission, which stood for fifty years against the elements and warring tribes of Indians, furnished shelter, protection, and succor to the padres within its walls. It was built as a defense against the French, who were threatening the Spanish border, and also for the purpose of advancing the civilization of the Indians.

Irrigation was necessary to the sustenance of the Indians, and the Fathers supervised the building of ditches, traces of which remain to this day. Large fields of corn were irrigated for a period of fifty years. The Indians were persuaded to settle down to a semi-civilized existence, and carried on a primitive agriculture under the patient supervision of the priests.

The *San Bruno* Mission was built of adobe bricks, and the walls were still standing in 1850. Father Acisclos Galverde and Father Bartome Garcia at one time had charge of the mission. Visiting priests from missions on the Rio Grande, and from those near El Paso, made infrequent itineraries through the Canyon area, stopping occasionally at the missions at Camp Wood and at Montell to hold mass and to check on the progress of the priests in the work of converting the Indians to Christianity.

The *Santa Cruz* Mission at Camp Wood was established at the request of the Lipan Indians. The savage Comanches were making war upon the Lipans and other tribes in the Nueces Canyon area, and Cavezón, the Lipan chief, sought protection for his people in requesting the mission to be

established. A part of the Lipan tribe was at that time located on the east bank of the Nueces, in what is now Real County. This mission was established by a Franciscan Father, Diego Ximenez, president of the missions on the Rio Grande, and Joachin Bañas, with the Spanish captain, Rabago, and the Lipan chief, Cavezón.

The *Santa Cruz* Mission was several years in being built. The site of the mission was near a large spring of water which afterward became the location of a government outpost established about the time of the Civil War to protect the scattered settlements against Indian raids and marauding bands of Mexican bandits. At the time of its founding, the *Santa Cruz* Mission was garrisoned with a troop of twenty Spanish soldiers to offer protection against raiding parties of unfriendly Indians.

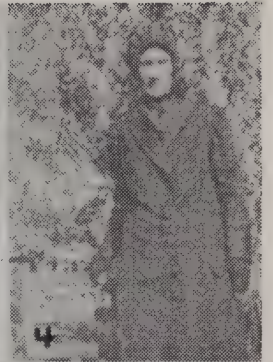
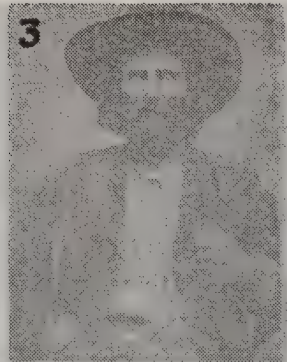
The *Santa Cruz* Mission did not operate for a very long period. The cruelty of members of earlier bands of Spanish gold hunters made the task of winning the Indians over to Christianity doubly difficult for the padres. Visible results were slow in coming, and the slow progress of the mission work incurred the displeasure of the Spanish authorities in Mexico, whose aim in establishing and maintaining the missions in the Southwest was twofold: namely, to Christianize the Indians and to hunt for gold. So the Spanish official charged with supervising the missions and outposts of his Majesty's Realm, Nicolas La Flora, who, on one of his trips of inspection, found that the "friars" were accomplishing very little in the way of Christianizing the Indians, and in finding gold to replenish the King's depleted coffers, judged the mission unprofitable, and subsequently the seat of government in Mexico ordered it abandoned.

The *San Bruno* Mission at Montell held out for a number of years after 1767, the year the *Santa Cruz* Mission was abandoned. The most reliable records show that it was still operating at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and it was not until 1832, when all the Franciscan monks were killed by Indian raiders, that efforts to Christianize the Indians in this area were abandoned.

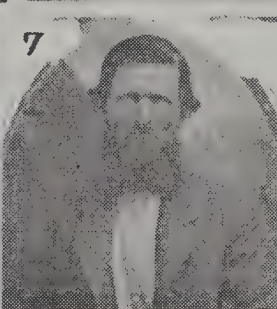
There is an interesting legend attached to the *San Bruno* Mission. The story is told that, one day while the instructed Indians were at work in the fields, they saw some Spaniards with seventeen donkeys loaded with silver passing through the country. The Spaniards, seeing the



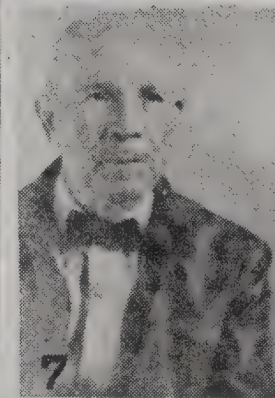
Sam Raney Double Wells-White Valley ranch



1. Julia Sweeten Schultz, Barksdale's first bride 2. Fannie Epps Pullen 3. Barney Payne 4. Mrs. Barney Payne 5. Craig Uzzell 6. Mrs. Craig Uzzell 7. Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Custer 8. Mr. and Mrs. Buck Green 9. John Pope 10. Grandma John Pope



1. Bob Watson, Stacey Watson, L. M. Ratliff, Lizzie Ratliff. Children: Elmer, Bill, Richard, Bunyon, Lee Ratliff, and baby 2. Mr. B. Stieber, Barksdale's first Justice of the Peace, with his bride 3. Mr. and Mrs. R. A. (Rube) Stewart 4. Mr. and Mrs. Bud Newman 5. Mr. Box and freight wagons 6. Y. O. Coleman and family 7. Grandpa Field 8. Mrs. Ammon Billings



1. J. D. (Daunt) Newman 2. The Schultz family — first couple to be married in Barksdale 3. Mrs. Barksdale 4. Bud Newman 5. Grandma Cromeans 6. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Raney 7. Mr. and Mrs. John Sweeten 8. Mr. and Mrs. Wood 9. Jim Thompson house, Pulliam

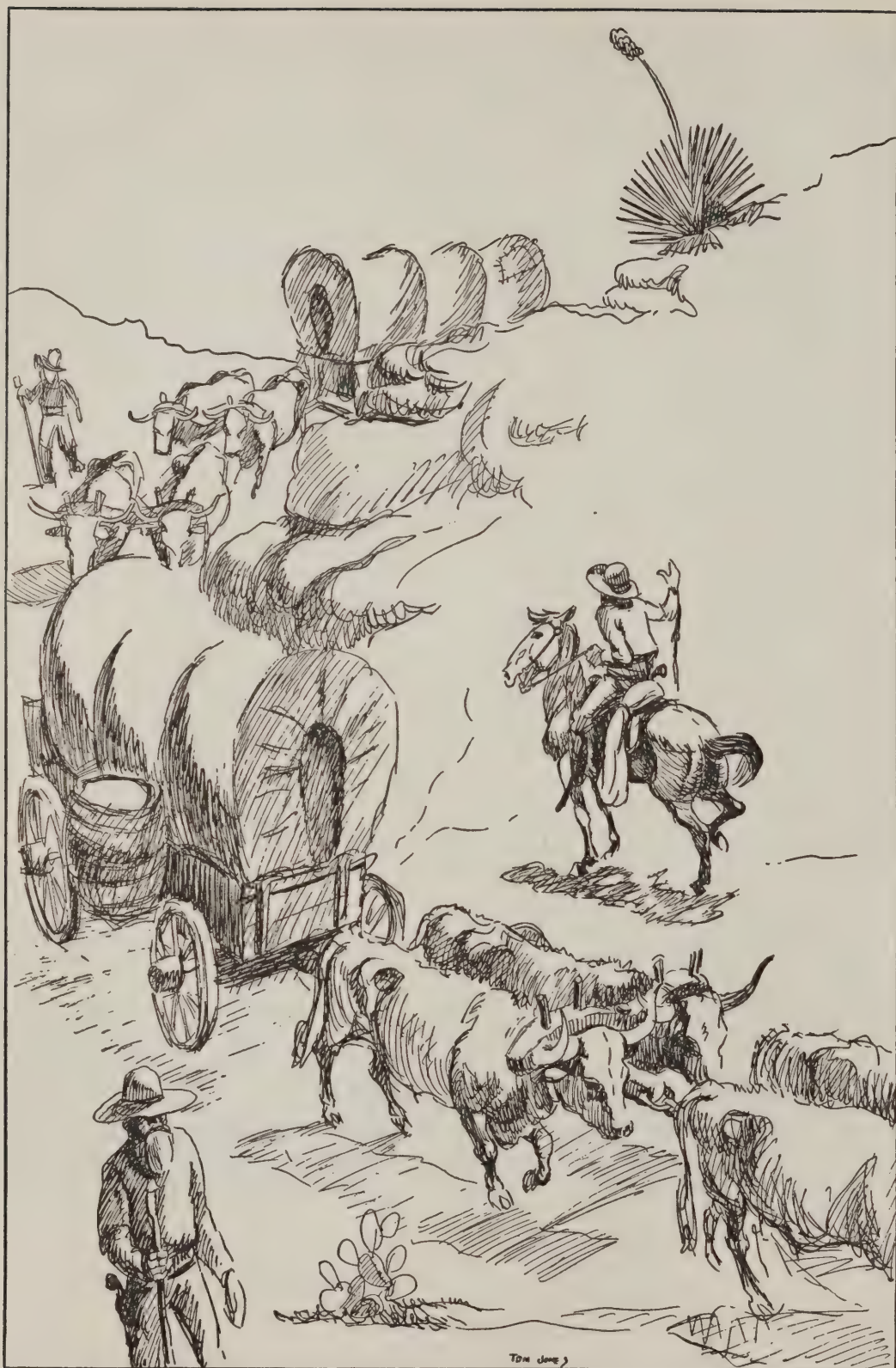
Indians and knowing that they would be killed, managed to make their escape and hide the silver in a cave. Until this day, the silver has not been found, although a king's ransom in silver lies buried within sight of the mission walls.

A more credible story relates that just before the murder of the monks, the Franciscan Friars, foreseeing their fate, buried the church and mission treasures in an underground tunnel on the mission site.

J. Frank Dobie, in his book *Coronado's Children*, tells some very interesting stories about buried treasures in the Nueces Canyon around the sites of these old missions in Montell and in Camp Wood.

For many years following the abandonment of these two missions, nearly all the Canyon country was occupied by warring Indian tribes, and was rarely ever traversed by civilized wanderers; and there is no record of further attempts at settlement until the year 1857. The old mission at Camp Wood, which was still standing at that time, was occupied as an army post by Lieutenant Wood, who changed its name to Camp Wood. The facilities were enlarged by the addition of seventeen or more buildings. These buildings included barracks for the soldiers and a blacksmith shop where the troopers' horses were shod. These buildings were located in an area south and west of the Camp Wood springs. A cemetery plot was in use on a spot about four hundred yards south of the springs. Considerable evidence of the remains of the old buildings was still to be seen at the turn of the century, and Jim Gray, an old-timer who built a home near the springs in the 1920's, recalls that he was able to locate the foundations of nearly a score of the old buildings of the abandoned post.

Camp Wood did not function very long as a United States army post, but was used for many years as a Ranger station, where Rangers were located by the Texas government almost continuously during the early period of settlement of the region, and until the time when local and county governments were organized and functioning.



CHAPTER II

The First Settlers—1865-1880

During the Civil War, and before Camp Wood army outpost was built, the Comanches made a raid in that area, and killed members of a frontier family who were making their home in the old abandoned *Santa Cruz* mission building at Camp Wood springs.

It was in 1864 that George Schwandner moved to Camp Wood with a small flock of sheep. Albert Schwandner and his mother came with him. There were not more than one or two houses between Uvalde and Camp Wood at that time. There was just one big one-story building in Camp Wood, the *San Lorenzo* Mission. The family moved into the abandoned mission.

In the fall of that year, the father went out with his band of sheep to herd them on the banks of the river below the mission. Mrs. Schwandner and Albert stayed at home. As the day grew warmer, Mr. Schwandner grazed the sheep down the river. His faithful dog was his companion that day, and was helpful in keeping the flock bunched in a small area, from time to time bringing back to the herd sheep strayed away from the main flock.

Back at the mission house, five Lipan warriors were stealing up to surprise the Schwandner family. It was a raiding party which had in its possession several head of horses that had been stolen in the Frio settlement. Their purpose now was to surprise the family and plunder the house. Mrs. Schwandner discovered the Indians as they were stealthily approaching the house, and told Albert to run and hide. Albert tried to hide behind some bushes, but his place of concealment was later discovered by one of the Indians. He saw the Indians take hold of his mother and drag her across the creek. She tried to get loose but the Indians beat her and dragged her on. Albert was seized by one of the raiders and tied to a tree nearby with a pair of suspenders that his mother had on to keep up her skirts. The Indians shot arrows into the body of Mrs.

Schwandner until she was dead, who kept pleading with Albert, up to the moment of her death, to make his escape. After the Indians killed her, they went back and plundered the house.

When Mr. Schwandner came home late that afternoon, he sensed that something was wrong, because his family didn't come out to meet him, as was their custom. The first thought that came to him was that his wife and son had both been captured. He became frantic with fear for their safety when recollections of former cruelties of the savages to frontier families came into his mind. He must pursue the Indians and if possible rescue his wife and son. He started out in search of his horses, only to find that the Indians had stolen them all. In his frenzy he set out on foot for Uvalde, the nearest settlement, a distance of forty miles from the Schwandner home. He was exhausted when he dragged himself into the little village, and in a terrible physical condition, his feet bruised and swollen from the long journey and his mouth parched and dry from the many hours without water. His grief and disappointment were further augmented when he found that most of the able-bodied men of the town were fighting in the Civil War. A small party of men was finally gathered together and in the posse were Doak Bowles, Judge Robbins, John Melliphant, James Cook, Stratton, Westfall, Dan Davis and others.

The posse followed the trail to Fort Lancaster and across the Pecos River. It was dark and rainy that night when they made camp. They put out a guard of two men. At twelve o'clock, when time came to change the guards, someone threw a stick of wood on the fire and it blazed up brightly. A shower of bullets and arrows fell about the group. An arrow pierced one of the members of the posse, a Mexican, in the thigh. The Indians, under cover of the darkness, cursed the men in Spanish, telling them that they had killed Mrs. Schwandner, and that they had the boy with them and were taking him into Mexico. The little band of pursuers returned this verbal attack with a volley of rifle and pistol fire. Mr. Schwandner was armed only with a dragoon pistol, and in the burst of fire from the rifles of the Indians that followed, he was wounded by a charge from a flintlock rifle in the hands of one of the Indians.

The Indians escaped into the darkness and went on

into Mexico where they sold the Schwandner boy to a Mexican named Pablo Ramos for some firewater and a horse.

Later on, a man from Fort Inge near Uvalde was in Mexico and happened to see the boy with this Mexican. The man went to Camp Wood and reported what he had seen to Mr. Schwandner, who was able to ransom his boy by paying over to the Mexican, Pablo Ramos, a large sum of money. It was such a large sum that Mr. Schwandner had to sell all his possessions in order to pay it.

In 1858, the Texas government appointed de Montell of Castroville, Texas, to locate the public lands of the upper Nueces River in the western district of Bexar County. De Montell was a native of Poland who had been banished from his country for political reasons. His name, when he came to Castroville, was Charles de Schudenmontell; later he changed his name to de Montell. While he was surveying this land, he made his camp at the present site of the town of Montell. Later, the place was named Montell, for him.

In 1866, the year following the Civil War, a Mr. Steve Walker built a log house about one mile south of the site of the *San Bruno* Mission. One of the interesting features of that frontier cabin was its glass windows, which up to that time had not been used in houses of the Canyon area.

In the same year, the first permanent settler moved into the Montell region. John Tindley settled on a spot near the old abandoned *San Bruno* Mission, in the year 1865. This location, soon afterwards, became the home of the Bayers, a family already renowned in the history of the Confederacy, and of the state of Texas. The lands that General Baylor acquired on the Nueces were given to him for his services in the Mexican War of 1848.

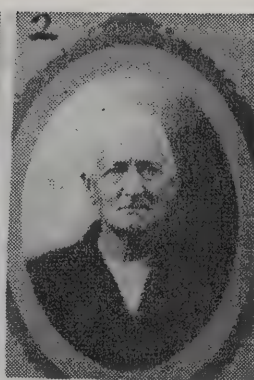
At the close of the Civil War, homeseekers began the westward trek from the war-torn areas of their former homes to carve for themselves new homes on a vast frontier that included most of west and southwest Texas. The Civil War had wrecked the fortunes of many of the old southern families in whose minds was still fresh the memory of a lost cause and a heritage that was now lost but might be regained on this new frontier of promise that lay out in the region toward the setting sun. The migration was at first a mere trickle, but by the '70's the tide

became a flood, and the western exodus reached its peak perhaps in the '80's and '90's, when small settlements were to be found over a wide area throughout the Southwest.

Stories of the rich country of the upper Nueces Valley, where rumor had said were broad verdant valleys of rich virgin land through which ran streams of sparkling clear water flowing between towering cliffs, and fed by everlasting springs that poured their flood from the solid rock banks beneath the towering hills, reached the ears of some who had joined the westward march. To these hardy souls, the rumored paradise was a land of promise, where one could go and settle down to the task of building homes, and to recuperating one's broken fortune. Stories had also been told of the abundance of wild game, of bear and deer and turkey and, too, of the streams that abounded in fish of many kinds awaiting the patient angler.

One of the first of these families to enter the Canyon in search of a permanent home was that of a man of Spanish descent, named Sanchez. The Sanchez family was located near the headwaters of the Nueces River in the year 1867, which was three years after the close of the Civil War and about the time the army post at Camp Wood was established. The presence of army troops in the Canyon area was a fortunate thing in that it encouraged the entry of more homeseekers in the region about the fort, and it was in the neighborhood of the post that most of the earliest families built their first homes.

It is true that wandering white and Mexican sheepherders had come into the valley previous to the entry of Old Man Sanchez, in search of winter grass for their flocks, and that they had made temporary camping places up and down the length of the Canyon as is shown by the old log pens and brush fences that were thrown up to work their stock. Some of these early migrants were killed by the Indians; others stayed a season or two and moved on out of the valley in search of greener pastures. The mountain fastnesses of the upper Canyon region, too, had become a hiding place for many reckless souls who had come into the toils of the law, and who sought asylum in this new land until such time as their misdeeds would be forgotten by the people back home. Many of these characters never lived to make the return trip to the land of their former residences, but died with their boots on in some lonely cow or sheep camp where they were either left unburied



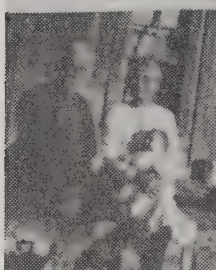
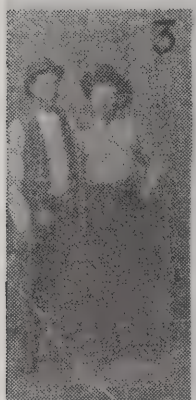
1. Tom and Jack Cromeans 2. J. M. Reddick 3. Group of Texas Rangers 4. The Leonard Family: John, Reuben, Mrs. Ake, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard 5. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Thompson 6. Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Hamrick 7. Baptizing group on Pulliam, 1880's



1. Zora Pope Sparks 2. Sam Sparks 3. Rev. A. M. Fisher 4. Mrs. Fannie Fisher Newman 5. Hugh Ward, branding cow 6. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Adams with children: Lula, Walter, Grover, and Ed 7. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wallace 8. Grandma Kirchner and Lulu Kirchner 9. Dr. and Mrs. Frank Robertson 10. Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lockley 11. Ben and Bee Newman



1. Mrs. Jack Edwards 2. Jack Edwards 3. Joe Ash and Jim Wallace in saloon 4. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wood 5. Mr. and Mrs. Warren Puett 6. John Thomas Wallace, at Blue Hole on Pulliam 7. W. J. Lockhart 8. First sawmill at Vance. Left to right: Charlie Risinger, Haze Taylor, Henry Wells, _____, Joe O'Bryant, children unknown. 9. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hill 10. Paul Werner ranch house on Divide 11. Mr. and Mrs. J. R. (Bob) Sweeten, and grandson, B. J. Stewart



1. Uzzell Hotel, Barksdale 2. Pulliam road crew: Floyd Hamrick, John Field, Riley Wallace, Ed Wood, Ben Hamrick 3. Pleas Jones, Ira Wheat 4. Mrs. Jemima Lacey 5. L. K. Henderson and nephew, Bob Shelton 6. Tom Wood house, Pulliam Creek 7. Mr. and Mrs. Josh Burleson and grandchild 8. Rocksprings' first well 9. Bud Anderson freight wagon 10. Rocksprings' First Methodist Church and parsonage 11. Eli Jones children 12. Cedar Creek schoolhouse. 1st row: Bud Pullen, Tom Puett's boy, Robert Raney, Ben Roberts, Buck Green, George Wood, Tom Puett 2nd Row: Emma Connell, Minnie Lane, _____, Sue Taylor, Quincy Craig, Dove Winans, Mollie Pullen, Mrs. Buck Green, Mrs. Leb Wood, Alma Raney, _____, Beulah Taylor 3rd row: Pete Wood, Long Lee Winans, Lon Webb, Doc Winans, Lee Winans, Warren Puett, Proc Webb, Jim Green, _____, Dan Moore, _____ Gertrude Young

or else laid to rest in some military outpost graveyard.

The most authentic statement concerning the entry of the Sanchez family comes from the statement of Austin Allison, whose parents came into the country in the early 'eighties, and he says that the old grandmother Sanchez told his father that, in the year 1867, she saw the waters of the Nueces River cover the top of the hill where the town of Barksdale is now located. Many of the old-timers remember, too, when the elder Sanchez was killed by the Indians on the Nueces one or two miles above the present town of Vance, and that his arrow-ridden body was found under a large oak tree near the bank of the stream. His body was carried to Camp Wood and buried there in the army post cemetery, most likely by a troop of soldiers who frequently traveled along the old government road that passed near the spot where Sanchez was killed.

The elder Sanchez, before his death, built a small cedar picket house on the hill where the present town of Barksdale is now located. It is supposed that Sanchez' cabin was the first house to be built in that vicinity. After Sanchez' death, the widow lived in another little cedar hut some two or three hundred yards farther down the river, which was built near the edge of the stream.

At one time, some member of the Sanchez family was supposed to have buried a considerable sum of money near the spot where the cabin stood. Years after all the members of the Sanchez family had died or had moved out of the country, a stranger came to the town of Barksdale, and before long, a rumor was circulated that he was in search of the buried treasure that was supposed to have been hidden there years before. The stranger stayed in the town awhile and then drifted out of the country. A short time after his departure, the owner of the land where the Sanchez house had been built found where someone had been digging in the ground and found where a small round hole had been left there that was just the shape of a small pot or can. The prints of the vessel could still be seen on the sides of the hole. The owner of the land then pieced the parts of the old story together and concluded that the stranger had most likely been a member of the Sanchez family, and, having received some clue as to the location of the buried money, had come to Barksdale and recovered the hidden treasure.

The next family to come to the Canyon in search of a

permanent abode was the Wells group of nine people. The Wells' came in from Victoria County down in the lower country in ox wagons in 1867, and passed through the village of Uvalde in the early spring of that year. They stayed in Uvalde only long enough to purchase a few supplies, and continued on their way up the broad valley of the Nueces River. By late afternoon of the first day, they had traveled a distance of some seventeen or eighteen miles, and were near the first crossing of the Nueces River. The party stopped their wagons and began preparations for spending the night there. The evening sun was low in the western sky and was slowly sinking behind the low hills to the west. A precipice of some height could be seen to the left of the campsite, and on the bold outline of its face could be seen the scars of erosion of the centuries and millenniums of the past. It was a beautiful cliff, and in its setting on the west bank of the clear running stream with the brilliant rays of the evening sun casting their shadows about, it made a wonderful sight to behold, and brought exclamations of admiration and awe from the travel-weary members of the group. The elder Wells exclaimed, "Boys, I don't believe that there is a spot in this whole Canyon any more beautiful and more inviting than the one that you now see. What do you say that we build us a cabin here and give this promising country a trial?"

His suggestion was met with approval from all members of the party, so preparations were begun to establish a permanent camp on the spot.

The Wells family stayed at that location about a year. Wild game was in abundance all about the little cabin, and the nearby stream furnished the family with all the fish it could use. Bill Wells recalls one hunting experience he and his brother Dave had while the family was living near Chalk Bluff. The two boys had gone about a mile from the cabin when Dave fell down in the grass and motioned for Bill to do likewise. They saw two huge bucks with antlers locked. Finally, one of the bucks sensed danger and stopped fighting. He came within one hundred yards of the hiding place of the two boys and Dave fired, wounding the deer. The herd of deer that was grazing nearby ran off, the wounded buck trailing them. Finally, he fell, and the boys took him home.

The next spring, the Wells family pulled up stakes and headed their wagons north. They established their second

Canyon residence about four miles north of the old Montell mission site, on the bank of the Nueces. There they found an old abandoned log cabin, and the family moved in and took possession. They had no near neighbors except one or two families settled near the old Montell mission.



CHAPTER III

Indian Raids and Massacres—1850-1882

Wandering bands of Indians were a constant threat to the safety of the family, and it was necessary for them to be constantly on the alert against surprise attacks of war parties of the Lipans and the Comanches. Not many years before the arrival of the Wells family at their new location, a skirmish had taken place between the Indians and a company of Texas Rangers under Captain Hays, which included among others Kit Ackland, Creed Taylor, Sam Cherry, Noah Cherry, Mike Chevalier, Sam Galbraith, and an Irishman named Paddy. It was a bloody encounter, the Indians suffering heavy loss and the Ranger party, one casualty, the Irishman, Paddy.

The band of Rangers was scouting through the country and had stopped about noon to rest and to rob a bee tree. Mr. Cherry was up in the tree starting to cut into it when he saw the Indians and gave the alarm. In the fight that followed, the Rangers inflicted heavy losses on the Indians, and finally drove them away. Paddy, the only Ranger casualty, was buried on the spot.

There were no roads in the country at the time the Wells' moved in to the Canyon. The very early settlers had to build the roads as they traveled, stopping here to cut a tree out of the pathway, and there to move some heavy stone or other obstruction that held up the progress of the wagons. Game was plentiful; wild bear could be found almost anywhere in the country. There was less timber then, especially cedar, and one could see for miles across the broad open valleys. From certain points in the valley one could see the prominent peaks of the mountain ranges that skirted the plain on either side. In those days, the Indian war parties used the high peaks on which to light their signal fires, and those signal lights could often be seen from Crown Mountain near the Camp Wood fort, and from Round Mountain some miles farther down the valley.

Lafayette Monroe Pullen came to the Canyon in 1876.

He first settled near the army post of Camp Wood on a tract of land that afterward became known as the Barksdale and Pullen ranch. A light was never burned in his cabin at night for fear that it might be seen by some party of marauding Indians, and some member of the family usually stood guard at night to avoid surprise attacks by the Indians. Mr. Pullen bought the first section of land in Edwards County and built on it the first lumber house erected on Cedar Creek. He later sold one-half of the section to Sam Raney.

In 1873, the Hill family moved into the country. They purchased from the Sanchez family the little picket cabin on the hill north of the river; at that time this log hut was still the only house in the vicinity. The Hill family consisted of three boys, Jim, John, and Ed, and their widowed mother. The Hill boys were destined to play important roles in the early development of the country.

Not long after the arrival of the Hills, James, the elder brother, became a scout under Lieutenant Bullis, then stationed at Fort Clark, a government outpost some forty miles west of Camp Wood. Fort Clark had been established before the Civil War to protect the frontier families from raiding Indian parties and from Mexican bandits that sometimes made raids into the region between the Rio Grande and the Nueces River.

James Hill tells the story of his first encounter with the Indians after he came to the Canyon country. It happened in the year 1875 while he was working on a ranch about three miles below Camp Wood. Jim was herding a little bunch of sheep for a Mr. Arnold, near a crossing of the Nueces River. About sundown, he was building a fire to cook his supper, and was surprised by a band of Indians that approached his camp from a draw on the east side of the road. The Indians shot several arrows at him before he could find cover. One arrow struck him in the leg and made a very severe wound. He was hit in the shoulder by another flying arrow that inflicted a painful but not serious wound. He was unable to move from the camp to summon help, but a man came to his relief about midnight and carried word to General Bullis at Fort Clark. Bullis immediately followed in pursuit of the Indians with his troop of Negro soldiers. Bullis and his men overtook the Indians at Dolen Springs on the Devil's River. After a bloody engagement in which six Indians were killed and

one of Bullis' scouts was killed and another wounded, the Indians retreated and made their escape into the mountain fastness of the Devil's River Canyon.

Shortly after this encounter, and while James Hill was acting as scout for General Bullis, the latter and his men had another engagement with one hundred and twenty-five Indians at Kickapoo Springs. Forty Indians were killed, and Bullis lost one man.

In the spring of 1875, the Coalson family moved in from Concho County, across country to the headwaters of the Nueces, and came down the rough canyon of the main Nueces to the headwaters of Cedar Creek. The Coalsons came in horse-drawn wagons, with the womenfolk and younger boys driving the teams, and Mr. Coalson and the older boys driving the small herd of cattle and the string of horses the family had brought with them from Concho County. Nic Coalson and his wife were people of middle age and had a large family of boys and girls. The people were of true pioneer stock and were prepared to wrest a living for themselves, from this wild uninhabited country in the brakes of the Divide. They stopped for a permanent camp at one end of a beautiful crescent-shaped valley that is now known as Half Moon Prairie. The valley had once been, in long ages past, the bed of the Cedar Creek fork of the Nueces River. By some caprice of that fast-moving stream the channel of the river had been changed, and as the years passed by, the top soil of the mountains eroded and washed into the little valley, filling it to a depth of many feet with the most fertile soil that nature could provide. It was this little valley in the hills that caught the eye of the elder Coalson, and it was there that he determined to build his home and to raise his family. The men soon erected a crude log cabin and set about to build their fortunes in this little valley snuggled between the hills. A clear stream of water ran close by the cabin and soon small patches of land were cleared on the river to raise vegetables for the home table and corn and foodstuff for the livestock. Deer, bear, and turkey roamed the neighboring hills. Wild honey could be found almost anywhere in caves and hollow trees. The land was ready to provide most of the needs of the family. It was literally a land flowing with milk and honey, a paradise in the hills.

The Coalsons had no near neighbors. Only a few scattered families could be found in the whole expanse of the

upper Nueces Valley.

Nic Coalson was a hunter of great talent. He was a crack shot, and it is said that he could kill a deer even after it had disappeared over the rim of the mountain. Mr. Coalson was a typical frontiersman and loved the wild country far removed from the noise and bustle of the towns and cities. It was his delight to take his trusty rifle in hand and, with his faithful dog pack at his heels, spend days hunting in the country about his home, always bringing in enough bear or deer meat to supply his family's needs for days. The folks liked coon and possum meat, too, but Nic recalls that the most unpalatable meat he ever tried to eat was an old, poor fox.

Nic had good hunting dogs, and his dogs were treated with more respect than any of the other livestock on the place. They were trained to trail wounded deer, and they soon learned that wounded deer could often be found near watering places.

Mr. Coalson was a man of great physical courage. He didn't mind going back into the darkness of a cave after a wounded bear or a wild hog, and many times, with only a cedar torch for a light, and his hunting rifle in hand, he would follow his hounds into caves after the wild javelina that roamed the hills at that time in great numbers. On one occasion, his dogs struck the trail of a panther that a band of javelina was attacking. The dogs treed the javelina in a cave and into the cave went Nic right after them. He killed fourteen javelina out of that one bunch.

Another time, Nic and a friend were riding along a trail and spied a bear in a cherry tree. Nic's companion raised his gun and was about to take a shot, when Nic, seeing that the bear was poor and unfit to eat, restrained his partner by telling him to wait till fall when the bear would be good and fat and his meat prime for the family table.

Indian raids were frequent during the early days of settlement in the Canyon. Jim Hill recalls one occasion when he and his brother, Ed, had returned from East Texas with some horses, and two mules which they hobbled out for the night. The next morning when they went to get the horses, the only things they found were the hobbles and some moccasin tracks. They knew only too well what had happened. They took the Indians' trail and followed it to the head of Camp Wood Creek. Being afoot

and pretty well tired out, they turned back about a half-mile from the Nixon ranch, and, upon reaching home, learned that the Indians they were following had killed Nixon. They helped bury Nixon at the old army cemetery in Camp Wood. The lost horses and mules were found near the Nixon ranch.

When Jim Hill was attacked by the Indians at his sheep ranch near Arnold Crossing in the early 1870's, he managed to saddle his horse after being wounded, and ride about a mile to the Arnold headquarters ranch, and from there to General Bullis' camp below Barksdale to get something done for his wounds, fearing that the arrows were poisoned ones. Bullis' doctor being drunk, Jim was accompanied by some of Bullis' men to Barksdale, where Grandma Sanchez removed the arrowhead, cutting it out with a razor, and treating the wound with herbs. While John Hill was carrying the mail between Barksdale and Vance, he ran into a band of about thirty-five Indians at what is now known as Lee Bottom, above Barksdale. He ran into them about three o'clock in the afternoon, and they fought until dark. He had a long-range gun and was able to stand off the attacks of the Indians, who had only bows and arrows. Hill's horse was wounded three times. Hill, not thinking that he would be able to get away, backed up against a bluff and gave them the best he had. When the Indians withdrew, Hill checked his supply of ammunition and found that he had only two cartridges left.

From 1875 to 1879, Jim Hill was a scout for Bullis' command and trailed the Indians all over the hill country. He helped bury the Coalsons. He was the scout who picked up the trail and followed the Indians to their camp, where many of the Indians were killed. The Indians were all buried in one grave and the camp burned.

Jim Hill was in the country in 1881 to greet Bob and Noah Sweeten, Rube Stewart, T. P. Rhodes, and others who came at that time. He was best man at the wedding of Julia Sweeten to J. T. Shultz.

The W. R. Webb and Epps families moved to the Canyon from Bee County in the year 1875. W. R. Webb's first wife, before her marriage to Mr. Webb, had married a man in Bee County named Epps. Mr. Epps died and W. R. Webb married his widow. The Epps family had a boy named George who was born in Bee County. This little boy was drowned on the Webb place west of Barks-

dale in the early days. The child was playing around an old well near the Webb house; and the loose board cover over the well broke through, plunging the lad to his death in the water at the bottom of the well.

Fannie Epps was born after the family moved to the Nueces Canyon. She is thought to be the first child born in the town of Barksdale, or rather the town of Dixie, because it was not until several years later that the town's name was changed.

Mrs. Epps, the widow whom W. R. Webb married, was a sister to Button Sanchez, a son of the pioneer Sanchez family, and a well-known figure in the early development of the town of Barksdale and the surrounding vicinity. Button Sanchez, who was of Spanish descent himself, married an Anglo-American girl named Strump.

The Sanchez family settled on the place now known as the Craig ranch, and the W. R. Webbs located on the ranch now owned by the Lanman family.

Sam Raney came to Uvalde in 1875 while he was still a very young man. He came from Van Zandt County in East Texas and arrived in Uvalde with seven head of horses, and went to work on a ranch west of Uvalde. He traded two of the horses to a fellow named George Johnson, and the Indians stole the other five. He put in a claim to the government for seven hundred dollars and, after the case had stayed in the courts for forty years, he was finally awarded one hundred and twelve dollars.

Sam stayed on that ranch for five months and worked for a Mr. Nun for \$12 a month.

In 1875, he worked at the Dolen ranch on Turkey Creek. While working on that ranch, he and Howard Levering and a Mexican went to hunt for their horses over on Gato Creek. They found the horses, but the Indians had them and were driving them off. The country was very brushy and the Indians made an effort to cut Sam and his companions off from the house. Sam and his party outran the Indians to the house. Howard and Sam got there first with the Mexican right behind them. When the Mexican jumped off his horse and looked back, the Indians shot him between the eyes. The bullet plowed a furrow about four inches long through the Mexican's scalp but did not kill him. Sam took him in to a doctor, who sewed up the wound, and the Mexican got well.

Shortly after this incident, Mr. Raney moved to the

Canyon and went to work for Al and Bob Johnson, who were ranching near the Camp Wood army post.

About one year after Sam Raney went to work for the Johnson Brothers, the Ammon Billings family moved in from the San Saba country and settled on the head of the main Nueces. It was in the year 1876 that the Billings family gathered up its possessions and headed west. Unlike most of the early settlers who brought cattle and horses with them, Mr. Billings brought three hundred and eighty-five hogs. Billings had thirteen men in his party. He carried his household goods and family in a large Bois d'arc wagon drawn by two yokes of steers. Trailing behind the wagon he had six dogs, one male and five females. These six dogs were the foundation stock that later on furnished Mr. Billings' neighbors with hunting hounds.

At the time of his arrival in the Canyon, Mr. Billings had a wife and two children. One of the little girls was named Jane. Another girl, named Willie, died soon after the arrival of the Billings clan, and was buried near the Billings home. The grave is located at the site of the present Hackberry cemetery; little Willie was the first person to be buried there.

The Billings' built their log cabin by a little spring near the foot of a mountain. They killed buffalo and robbed bee caves and sold honey. They killed the wild cattle that drifted in from the upper country, and sold their hides. They killed bear and sold the oil that they were able to render out of the flesh.

While Sam Raney was working for the Johnson brothers on Miller Creek, west of Camp Wood, one of the Johnson boys told a young man who was working there on the ranch to hitch up a horse and a mule to the wagon and go haul a load of wood. He did as he was told, and while he was loading the wood, a bunch of Indians discovered him. They started for him and the young man went under the wagon. The Indians shot at him several times and finally shot him in the right arm and also shot the horse that was hitched with the mule to the wagon. The team ran about fifty yards to the creek, and off a bluff to their death. The boy ran into a live oak thicket but the Indians kept shooting at him. In the meantime, the Johnson boys and Sam heard the shooting, so R. S. Johnson and Sam mounted their ponies and ran as fast as they could to help the young man. The Indians heard them coming and ran

like a bunch of turkeys. There were seven of them. Sam and Mr. Johnson fired several shots at them, and took the boy to a Ranger camp just over the hill, where one of the sergeants dressed the wound. They left the boy in camp and headed for a cedar brake after the Indians, but the Rangers soon lost the trail.

In June of the year 1876, Sam went up the trail with a herd of steers to Kansas. He was on the trail three months and twenty days. George Spears was the trail boss; there were twenty-two hundred head of steers in the herd. When they reached Fort McKavitt, the Rangers ran George Spears off and that left Sam in charge of the herd. When they got to the Red River, the Indians began following them, begging for a beef. Sam would not let them have it, so that night they stampeded the herd and three hundred head were lost. Henry Patterson and Sam hunted for them for about a week or ten days. At last they decided to ride into Fort Sill and examine the hides on some of the cattle in the Indian reservation there. It was forty miles to the reservation. There the Indians were fed and educated by the government. Just as Henry and Sam crossed the Red River, they spied a band of Indians coming up on their left. They bunched up and had a council, and rode toward Sam and Henry as hard as they could ride. Sam and Henry turned their horses and went to meet them in a saddle gait. Henry asked Sam if they were to fight or run. Sam replied that they could do neither one because they had only a six-shooter apiece. The Indians came up and crowded around the two men as close as they could get. There were about thirty of them, dressed in Indian garb with feathers in their hair and plenty of paint on their faces and bodies. One of them had a gun, and the others were armed with bows and arrows. One spoke Mexican and was brave enough to try to take Sam's pistol, but Sam knocked the Indian's hand away and stuck the pistol in his leggings. The leader then wanted to know if the two men had a pass from the Indian agent. Henry asked Sam for the bill of sale from a bunch of cattle that they had recently sold. Sam gave it to him and he made the Indians believe that it was a pass from the agent. The Indians then asked them where they lived. Henry told them that they lived in Kansas; that they had come to Texas to see about a herd of cattle; and that Sam was his brother. The Indians did not believe this, and said that Sam was a

Texan. Then they wanted some tobacco. Sam and Henry had about a pound of toothpicks, which the Indians took and divided among themselves. They bade the men from Texas good-by, and were off. Sam and Henry then went on to Fort Sill, where they found about three hundred head of their cattle in the Indian herd. After cutting them out, they took them over to the main herd, and from there on to Ellis, Kansas.

There were five herds in this drive and not less than two thousand to the herd. The cattle belonged to Hughes and King Barry, Henry and Bill Patterson, and Jack Poe. John Patterson and about fifty men were with these herds.

After returning from Kansas, Sam bought four steers from Johnson Brothers, and an old wagon from another party, and took a contract to build seven miles of wood fence between the places of Andrew Allen, Al McDonald, and the Johnson brothers. Sam worked on this fence during the fall of 1877 and the year 1878.

In 1876, L. A. (Bud) Field made his first trip to the Nueces Canyon. He was then a young man about eighteen years old. He came through Uvalde on his way to the Canyon. At that time, Uvalde was just a village.

While in the Canyon, he spent one night with the Sattathite family, who lived on the river above the George Taylor place. When he got ready to leave the next morning, Sattathite warned him not to make his camp in an open spot. The first night of his return trip, he made his camp in a live oak thicket at the mouth of the Canyon. He tied his horses in the thicket. During the night, the horses got scared and broke loose. Next morning, when Mr. Field got ready to leave, he found that Indians had brought a bunch of horses through the country. The Indians had cut the hobbles from the feet of the Field horses, and thrown them in with their herd. The stolen horses were never recovered.

Sam Raney recalls that while he was with a trail herd on the way to Kansas that they had a cowboy in the outfit named Buffalo Bill, who, at one time, had been a sailor. One day, when Bill came in, his horse was lame, and he rode him down to the remuda to catch a fresh animal. He had his rope tied to the horn of his saddle and when he had roped the horse he had picked out, he caught him by the right hind leg. The horse ran on the rope and jerked the horse Bill was riding down and hit Bill's head

against a tree and that was the last that he knew. They buried him there in the Cross Timbers.

On the trip, they cooked over a fire made with buffalo chips, and Sam recalls that the food cooked over it tasted good.

One day, as they were approaching the Red River, George Spears came back to the herd. The next morning, Jim Cross and Sam were on the last relief, and had to round up the horses that had already gone on about two miles. The men were about to break camp when five Rangers came up looking for George Spears. Sam told them they were looking for him in the wrong place. Sam was on a good horse and told the Rangers he would go get George. When Sam got around the hill he turned the horse loose. The Rangers came on behind anyway, but Sam had beat them there. George was necking a yearling buffalo bull to a steer, but as soon as Sam told him the Rangers were coming, he took Sam's horse and made his escape across the Red River. Sam finished the job of necking the buffalo bull to the steer, and then took him on to Kansas.

The Rangers pursued George until their horses gave out, and then turned back to the herd to take Sam for letting George know the Rangers were after him. Henry Patterson told them they couldn't take any man away from the herd.

In 1876, Sam was helping the Johnson boys gather some cattle on the Divide. At that time, there wasn't a house or a fence or a well in that whole country. Scattered bunches of cattle, that had drifted in from the plains country, roamed all over the Divide region, and on down into the breaks of the upper Nueces. Many of these cattle were unbranded; they were, in the parlance of the cow-country, mavericks, and became the property of whomever was able to put his brand on them. This custom did not apply to unweaned calves, and many enterprising individuals, after the close of the Civil War, came to Texas and built up great fortunes by taking up the cheap land and stocking it with the wild cattle that grazed the hills and plains of Texas in tens of thousands.

Sam and the Johnson boys were after maverick cattle. On this trip, they caught a good bunch of wild cattle, many of them mavericks. The crew had brought with them thirty head of gentle cattle. They herded them loosely, and had soon gathered about a hundred head, most of which were

mavericks. They held them there about ten days and started them back to camp when a turkey hen flew in the middle of them. In the ensuing stampede, about half the bunch was lost, together with the gentle cattle. They had to start holding those that remained, just as they had done in the beginning, but the big steers got restless again before long, and began to fight their way out of the herd. The men still had some of the young gentle steers left in the herd, so they began to yoke these to the old steers, which proved successful.

Sam caught a big steer and tied him to a tree. The next morning they yoked him to a two-year-old, and the Johnsons took him on with the others and sold the herd to G. W. Saunders, a cattle-buyer.

While the men were gone with the cattle, Al McDonald and Sam lived on beef and wild honey for about ten days. They had no bread or coffee. They were camped at the Tucker waterhole south of the site of the present town of Rocksprings, although there was no Rocksprings there at that time. They tried to move to McKenzie Lake, but got lost and almost starved for water. Sam told the boys he would find some water, so he rode down the Llano until about dark, and unsaddled his horse and went to sleep. The next morning, he saddled his horse and followed some trails down the creek and ran into a buffalo. He killed him and cut out a patch of his chin beard and took it with him down the creek where he found Green Lake and plenty of water. He also found a bee tree. He started back to tell the boys and met them on the way back. Sam told them what he had found and showed them the patch of hair he had taken from the buffalo, and made them believe he had bagged an Indian. They went on down to the lake, had dinner, and cut the bee tree. They then went back to the Tucker waterhole for the cattle. It began to rain, so they hunted cattle about ten days longer, then went back in to the Johnson brothers' ranch.

In 1877, a small band of Indians came down Camp Wood Creek, from a raid on the Frio, and killed a Mr. Nixon there. This man was at work in his garden under a hill near the house. The Indians shot him seven times as he ran for the shelter of his cabin. Strangely enough, they did not bother Nixon's wife, who was in the house during the time of the shooting.

In 1872, the Wells family moved from their ranch at

Five Oaks, north of the Montell Mission site. Henry Wells had been doing some scouting around in the Upper Canyon and had filed on a pre-emption in the Vance vicinity. That was in 1870. William Wells, too, had been doing some exploring, and in his rounds had looked the Camp Wood Creek country over for a homesite. On one occasion, he was hunting wild cattle in the brakes of Camp Wood Creek when he ran upon a lone Indian buck. Bill had a long rawhide lariat with him that he used to rope the wild cattle, and the thought came to him—why not rope a wild Indian? They say the thought is father to the deed; at any rate, Bill coiled his lariat, widened the loop, and stationed himself near the path of the oncoming Indian. When the Indian came alongside, Bill threw his rope, the noose settling around the shoulders of the young buck. Quick as a flash, and before Bill could tighten the rope, the Indian slipped the coil off his shoulders and urged his pony into a run down the canyon. Bill adjusted his rope again and followed the Indian at breakneck speed. Down through the flats they raced, taking the live oak thickets and the deep narrow gullies in their stride. Bill was slowly narrowing the gap between him and the Indian, and was getting his lariat ready to throw when the Indian disappeared around a bend in the creek. Bill speeded up his mount but was unable to regain sight of the young Indian brave. Finally, Bill stopped his horse under a bluff at the edge of the stream to rest his mount, and to take stock of the situation in preparation for his next move. He had just finished drinking from the pool of water under the bluff, and was raising up to his knees, when he saw a dozen or more Indians looking down at him from the top of the cliff. Bill had been very eager to rope the one lone Indian buck, and take him in as a prisoner, but he had no taste for dealing with a dozen of them. So, assuming that precaution is the better part of valor, he jumped on his pony and sped down the valley as fast as his horse could carry him, with the Indians in hot pursuit, their arrows falling uncomfortably close behind him. The Indians followed him to within a mile or two of the Ranger station at Camp Wood, then turned back. Bill then made his way home.

On another occasion, Bill was hunting out on Montell Creek, and in the course of the day's run had traveled out on the Divide between the head of Montell Creek and the Lost Creek country. As he was riding along through

the cedar, his attention was attracted to a large hole in the ground. His curiosity aroused, he sauntered up to the opening and found that the hole broadened out into a cavern of considerable proportions. Further explorations revealed a huge cavern of great beauty, with many rooms, bedecked with enormous stalagmites and stalactites. So Bill found himself to be the discoverer of one of the most beautiful caverns in the whole Nueces Canyon country. The cavern is now known as Palace Cave, and is a scenic spot and a point of attraction for tourists and sight-seers from over a wide area.

Bill liked the Montell Creek country so well that, when his family pulled up stakes and left the Five Oaks ranch, he turned his steps up the broad valley of Montell Creek, and made his home near a spring on the headwaters of that stream.

Ward Watkins came to Edwards County in 1877, before the county was organized. He was married to Martha Ann Welch on July 7, 1857. He was a schoolteacher by profession, and was a great favorite with the children.

On December 6, 1878, Ira L. Wheat came to the Nueces Canyon and unloaded his wagons one and one-half miles east of the Ranger station, Camp Dixie, which is now known as the town of Barksdale. Mr. Wheat went back to his old home the following spring and moved his livestock to that section. Some time during the month of June of that year, the Indians visited that section and committed many crimes, killing people, stealing stock and other things of value, and striking terror to the hearts of the settlers, who feared an attack in the absence of the menfolk.

This fear was well-founded, for, that same year, the Coalson family was massacred on Cedar Creek.

The Indians came by Ira Wheat's place about sunup, took his horses, which were poor and run-down (about seven head of them), and got several horses from a neighbor's corral, traveling up the Nueces for several miles. For some reason, they turned back, and when within about five miles of the Wheat ranch, turned off the trail and were making an effort to get the horses over a mountain, when Mr. Welch, a minister of the gospel, came upon them, whereupon they mounted their horses and rode away, leaving all but one of Mr. Wheat's horses, and some others they were unable to lead in their haste.

The Indians then crossed the canyon in the direction

of the Cedar Creek country. They reached the Coalson ranch late in the afternoon of June 1, 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Coalson were down on the creek, fishing. When sundown had approached, Coalson told his wife that if she would take the children and go on up the creek to the house, he would take Jack, one of the older boys, and go through the Half Moon Prairie and drive the milk cows in.

The Indians attacked Mrs. Coalson before she reached the house, killing her, a twelve-year-old girl, and a two-year-old child. When Mr. Coalson failed to find them when he reached the house, he went back down the creek to look for them. There he found them lying in their own gore, their bodies pierced with arrows of the Indian murderers. The Indians had made their escape into the mountains on the west. The neighbors came in and helped to bury the victims of the cruel massacre. The bodies were all placed in one big box, and buried in a grave on the Half Moon Prairie, just under the brow of the hill that overlooks the prairie on the west.

One of the arrows taken from the body of Mrs. Coalson was kept for many years by the Sam Raney family. Mr. Raney arrived at the scene soon after the massacre, and helped to prepare the bodies for burial.

The arrow that killed Mrs. Coalson was three or four inches long, and an inch and a half wide at its broadest part.

Some years before the Coalsons were killed on Cedar Creek, the Indians killed a man on Pulliam, near the present home of the George Taylor family. This man, a Mr. Coats, was herding sheep near a big mountain east of the George Taylor pre-emption. The body of the victim was not found for several days, as there were no houses in the vicinity at the time of the murder. His body, when found, was leaning up against a tree, and some writing material was scattered about. An investigation revealed that he had been writing a letter to his sister, when the Indians stole upon him. The letter was lying by his side. The finding party wrapped him in a blanket and buried him where he died. The mountain where he was killed is now known as Coats Mountain.

In the year 1877, the Indians came one night to the ranch of Bud Pullen, and stole all his horses, leaving him afoot. The next day, two of his neighbors, Bob Edwards and Frank Holmes, furnished him a horse, and the three men then took the trail of the Indians. After a hard ride

on the trail, Holmes turned back to notify the Rangers stationed at Camp Dixie. The Rangers came and helped, but they lost the trail and turned back. Holmes rejoined his companions and continued the search, picking up the trail anew. On the head of Bullhead Creek, they were joined by Marion Sanchez and Creed Rideway, who had also had some horses stolen by the Indians. Following the trail, they overtook the Indians near the old Gentry settlement, and a fight ensued in which the Indians were put to flight. The Indians later were found camped on one side of a big canyon. The Pullen party came up on the other side. Having one long-range gun, they were able to make it hot for the Indians, killing several of their horses—the distance across the canyon was too great for the Indians' arrows to do any damage.

Pullen and his men raided the abandoned camp, and spent a day resting their horses before again taking up the trail, which they followed through the spot where the town of Utopia now stands, and on as far as Frio City, where they turned back, giving up hopes of recovering their horses.

In 1878, one year before the killing of the Coalson family on Half Moon Prairie, a party of Indians came by way of Kickapoo Springs and surprised the camp of Sam Raney and Pope Burns on Cliff Creek, and stole all the horses in the camp except the one Burns was riding. Raney had two horses in the bunch. The Indians went on from there down to Dirt Waterhole on the Dan Taylor pre-emption, where the Coalson boys were herding sheep. They shot Johnny Coalson and his brother, and fired at Nic Coalson, who shot one of them, causing the Indians to retreat.

Pat Dolan went out next morning and found Johnny Coalson in a hole of water. He was not dead, as was originally supposed, but the brother was fatally wounded. Dolan brought the boys in and saved Johnny's life. This happened on the first day of June, 1878.

The year before, while Sam Raney was on Miller Creek, near Camp Wood, he went into Camp Wood to see Mr. Johnson, and stayed at his place until after dark. Mr. Johnson had all his horses in the pen except seven, which were hobbled outside. As Sam rode off, he heard the horses jumping in their hobbles; his own horse began to rear and pitch. The Indians, who had the seven head rounded up, opened fire on Sam. Sam returned the fire, killing

one horse and stampeding the rest. He also stampeded the Indians, who got away, but without any horses. The next day at Round Mountain, some men had a big herd of cattle. The Indians got all the horses except the ones being ridden, then crossed the mountains over into Live Oak and killed a man named Warmen, a shepherd. The raiders then went toward the Santa Rosa Mountains in Old Mexico.

One of the very earliest settlers in the Frio Canyon was J. L. Hobbs, who was for many years a member of an organization known as "The Minute Men." At one time, he was stationed at Camp Wood, and while there he helped dig a tunnel from the old fort to the Camp Wood Spring.

Mr. Hobbs was in the pursuit party when the Indians stole the Terry girls, and killed Old Man Terry and members of his family. This Indian raid occurred about 1872. All the members of the family were killed except the girl and Joe Terry, whom the Indians wounded and left for dead.

The pursuit party followed the Indians to the Devil's River and found them there. They were swimming in a pool of water when the men rode up to them. The Indian guard did not see the Hobbs men approaching. Nearly all the Indians were killed, only two or three escaping. They had the captured girl in the camp. The chief had stolen a grey stallion from John Avant. The animal was a race horse, and the chief put the girl behind him on that horse. Knowing that it would be useless to try to overtake the stallion, Old Man Patterson, one of the Minute Men, shot the horse and killed the Indian chief. The girl was rescued.

In 1878, Sam Raney, Al McDonald, Pope Burns, and George Johnson were hunting cattle on Bullhead. They were camped at the Henry Wells place, and had put their horses in one of Mr. Wells' pens to guard them. A Mr. Williams was camped about seventy-five yards away. He had left his team at Henry Wells' house, tied in Mr. Wells' yard. That night, the dogs kept barking, awakening the men. A little later, the men heard a shot. The men thought that Henry Wells had shot at some varmint, so they lay back down. Al McDonald, Pope Burns and a Mexican were sleeping about thirty yards from Raney and Johnson. Mr. Raney had run his horse hard all that afternoon and had hobbled him near the camp. The Indians got him. He had another horse tied to the fence, which the Indians got, too. The men heard the

Indians as they ran over a brush pile. They decided not to investigate. George Johnson and Sam were guarding the horses at the pens when the Indians got the two horses. The next morning, Pope Burns and Sam went up on Bullhead to see if they could locate the Indians. While they were riding up the canyon, they met two men driving a yoke of steers. Later, Sam and Pope learned that the steers had been stolen, and that the two men were carrying them to the cedar brake.

The Indians made their escape out the head of the canyon, so Sam and Pope returned to their camp at the Wells place. When they passed the spot where Williams was camped, Sam went by to wake him up. He raised the cover and found him dead. The men made a coffin out of a wagon box and buried him under the hill at the Henry Wells ranch.

The O. D. (Doc) Coleman family came to the Canyon in 1879, and settled on a ranch near Montell. O. D. was married in 1899 in the Montell Episcopal Church to Georgia Clark, a member of another pioneer family.

During the horse-and-buggy days, Mr. Coleman operated the mail line from Laguna to Barksdale. His wife ran the telephone exchange in Montell for many years.

The parents of Vol Ross came to the Canyon region in 1879, to help move some cattle. Vol Ross came back to the Canyon in 1886 with Sam Epperson, Johnny Brown, and V. A. Brown, and settled on Hackberry, near Vance. He married Deannie Wofford at Vance; six children to that union were born. He owned a grocery store in Vance, at one time, and was postmaster in Vance for several years.

The M. M. Bradford family came to the Divide country in 1879 and settled near Seven Hundred Springs. The Bradfords brought with them 2000 head of cattle, and turned them loose in the beautiful grass country around Seven Hundred Springs. The animals ranged to the Rio Grande, but twice each year, the cowboys from the Nueces to the Rio Grande gathered for the big roundup, and the herds were collected, branded and turned loose again. Bradford was a cowboy of the old school, having gone up the Chisholm trail with other trail drivers in 1879, and could recall many tales of the cow camps and stories of long drives in biting blizzards, fording swollen streams and opposing the lawless element that was rampant in the country before the organization of county government.

The Bradfords' brand was an M over a W and is one of the oldest cow brands in Southwest Texas. It is now in the possession of the Hough family of Rocksprings. The brand was used for many years by Mrs. Sam Hough's father, M. M. Bradford, and also by Mrs. Hough's uncle, Willie Shanklin.

Mrs. Annie Laurie Hough, wife of Sam Hough, Sr., and daughter of M. M. Bradford, was named for the heroine of the perennial Scottish song.

J. C. Blalack, a native of Alabama, came West in 1877. The family came in ox wagons. In their itinerary through the southern states to Texas, they stopped two years in Florida. They reached the Frio Canyon on June 4, 1879, where they found a considerable settlement. Indian bands were still making raids in the country, and the memory of the massacre of the Terry family was still fresh in the minds of the people. The Blalacks made camp that day for the noonday meal where the town of Rio Frio is now located. While they were eating their dinner, a man rode up on horseback and announced that there were Indians in the country. He also stated that several members of the Colson family had been massacred by the Indians on the Main Nueces. With that news, he rode off to warn the next family up the canyon, leaving the Blalack family with fallen countenances. The next day, the Blalacks continued their journey, entering the main Nueces Canyon by way of the divide separating the Frio and the Nueces Rivers. At the head draws of Indian Creek where the trail left the plateau to enter the canyon, the grade was so steep and rough that members of the party had to tie cedar poles to the wheels of their wagons to serve as brakes as the wagons passed down the steep incline. They came across the low hills to Ranch Creek, and from there to the Camp Wood Springs, where they made camp.

The Johnson brothers were ranching near the springs at that time, and they told Mr. Blalack about the little settlement around Camp Dixie where all the land that a person would want could be had for fifty cents an acre. Mr. Blalack already knew about that land, for he had arranged for the purchase of a league that stretched the full width of the valley from the Nueces on the east to Pulliam on the west.

The Blalacks rested their oxen a few days and moved on up the canyon to make their home on the east bank of the Nueces River, near the village of Dixie.

When the Blalacks arrived, they found the families of Bob Edwards, Frank Holmes, Jerry Ellis, Frank Barksdale,

Abe Mulkey, and the Tabors already located.

The John Pope and the J. C. Blalack families had been neighbors back in Alabama. After Mr. Blalack came to Texas, he wrote back to the Popes in Alabama, insisting that they come to Texas too, adding that the Nueces Canyon, where they had located, was a wonderful country and that he had already located a place for the Popes when they should arrive.

Tempted by this offer, and lured by the natural appeal of a new frontier, the Popes decided to sell out in Alabama and make the move to Texas.

The itinerary of the Pope family to Texas and on to the Nueces Valley makes for an interesting story. Dennis, one of the Pope boys, recalls that the family came from Alabama to Galveston by steamboat. He tells of an exciting adventure he had in Galveston while the family was preparing to board the train for Travis County. Somehow in the rush he got separated from the family and became lost in the crowd. Dennis was only about six years old at the time, and he says that when his folks finally found him, his mother was frantic, and after that, during the rest of the trip, he was kept close to the group.

John Pope stopped in Travis County one year and made a crop. In the fall of that year, they secured wagons and oxen and began the long journey to the land they had heard such good reports about. They followed the same route the Blalacks had traveled, and reached their destination at some time during the year of 1879.

They settled on the land that Mr. Blalack had located for them; soon a crude log cabin was put up by a hillside on one edge of the valley in which their pre-emption was located.

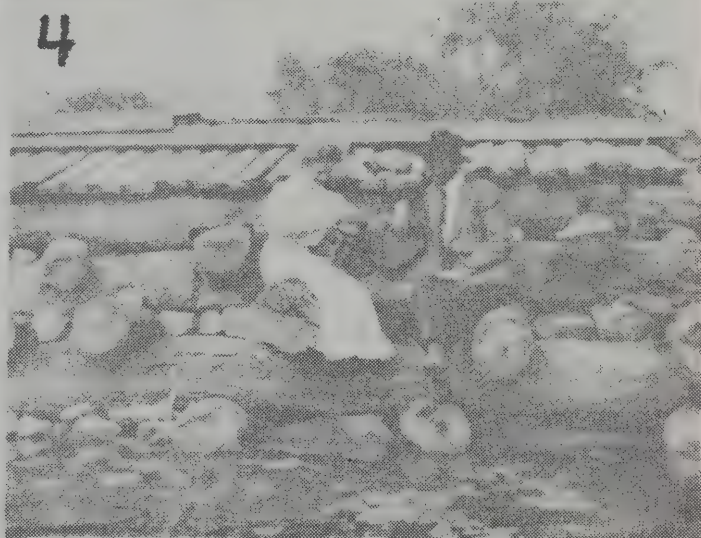
In 1879, the Dan and George Taylor families moved to the Canyon. These two families from Gonzales County came across country in ox wagons from Gonzales County to Uvalde, and from there on up the canyon to Camp Dixie. They were pleased with the country and decided to take up land near the Dixie settlement. Their first stop was on Pulliam Creek, about four miles above Camp Dixie. There they made a semi-permanent camp, until a suitable location could be found for both families. Land was cheap and plentiful, and the Taylor men were not long in deciding on a place to build their permanent homes. Dan Taylor liked the country on Cedar Creek, where two or three families had already located, and George decided to build a home for his family

farther up the canyon on the Pulliam fork of the Nueces. So the two families loaded their wagons and parted their ways, Dan heading toward the Coalson country on Cedar Creek, and George making his way up the valley to the headwaters of Pulliam on a prong that is now known as Polecat. Both men had chosen rough country, but both locations were near the edge of the Divide where the cow grass was plentiful, and where there was a permanent supply of water. The Indians were still a threat in the country, and many early settlers chose to make their homes in the deep rough canyons for the protection that they still afforded, rather than locate in the more level country where they would be less successful in warding off Indian attacks.

In 1879, several families moved into the Montell community. The Baylors, a family renowned in Texas history for the part they played in the Mexican War, and for their contribution to the cause of the Confederacy during the Civil War, built their home near the site of the old *San Bruno* Mission. With the Baylors came the Clarks, the Colemans and the Mabrys, whose families settled in and around the same area. The elder Mabry was the first justice of the peace of the Montell community.

In 1879, Sam Raney was married to Mary Ann Carter in the home of the Clubb family below Montell. At that time, Sam was in a partnership with Al McDonald on Lick Creek. The two men were in the hog business, doing a little farming on the side. A short time before Sam's marriage, he made a trip over to the Ranger station at Camp Wood to borrow a singletree with which to do some plowing. He was smoking a pipe as he rode along, the sparks flying in every direction. An Indian fired at him and Sam returned the fire, killing a horse. The next morning, he found moccasin tracks where he had been fired on the night before. The Indians had been trying to steal the Rangers' horses, and it was one of the Rangers' horses that Sam had killed.

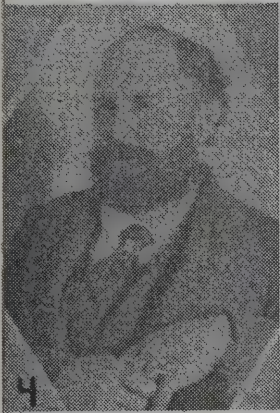
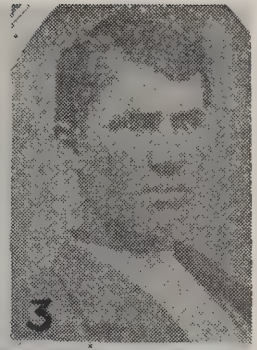
In 1879, not long after this brush with the Indians, Sam dissolved his partnership with Al McDonald, and he and his new bride moved to a place on South Spring Creek. Their new location was a beautiful country of low hills near the brakes of South Spring Creek; the fine ranch that the Raney family improved there became known as the White Valley ranch. It was a wonderful cow country; when, in later years, the Angora goat was introduced into the country, the rough



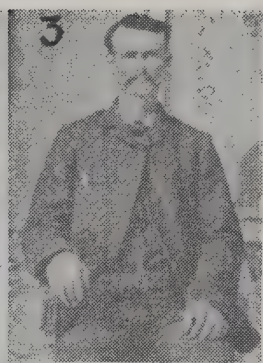
1. Mrs. J. N. Reagan 2. Lum Wood with panther and kittens 3. Mr. and Mrs. L. A. (Bud) Field 4. Effie Hale and Charlie Wells at old Hoag Dam on Leona River 5. Rocksprings School, late 1890's



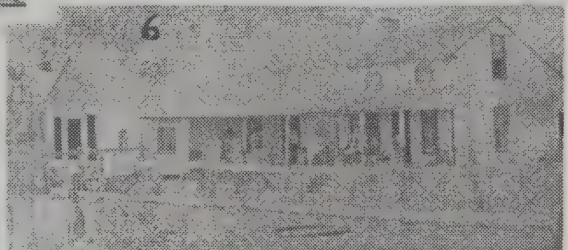
Election board when Rocksprings became county seat in 1891



1. Captain and Mrs. W. W. Wallace 2. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Sweeten 3. Tom Payne
 4. Paul Werner 5. Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Hargus 6. Mr. and Mrs. John Chapman, with
 George and Ruby 7. M. S. Lackey family: Ernest, Horace, Oscar, Lewis, Fannie May,
 Carrie, and Mr. and Mrs. Lackey 8. Vance group. 1st row: Leland Stanton, William
 Stanton, Lonnie Buck, Willie Buck, Lou Haynes, Johnnie Haynes, Doc Dannelly, Charles
 Wells, Mary Haynes, Earl Haynes, _____ Dannelly, Albert Wells, Jesse Wells, Jim
 Wallace 2nd row: Della Stanton, Clyde Parkerson, Irene Parkerson, _____ Haynes
 3rd row: Emma Collins, Evie Eppler, Willie Burris, Ann Ridgeway, Stella Parkerson,
 Ella Dannelly, Mrs. Joe Haynes, Hallie Parkerson, Mrs. Dannelly and baby Anna,
 Capt. Wallace, Mrs. Wallace, Dee Wallace, Preacher Lowe, Mr. Stanton, Mrs. Stanton,
 Millard Parkerson, Molly Parkerson, Zac Eppler, Mrs. Lon Buck, Mrs. Henry Wells,
 Lon Buck, Henry Wells, Preacher Knowlton, Bud Ridgeway



8



1: Rocksprings in an early day 2. Bill Taylor on the right 3. Sam S. Field 4. The Benskin family 5. Emmitt Newman 6. Captain Wallace home and store in Vance 7. Mrs. and Mrs. Val Casey 8. Robert Raney ranch on Spring Creek, Robert and family in foreground.

terrain, with its brush-covered hills, made an ideal country for the goat industry.

During the '70's, the Canyon was visited occasionally by itinerant preachers and missionaries. One of the earliest of these ministers of the gospel was a Baptist missionary by the name of John W. Baylor. His home was in Corpus Christi, and on one of his trips to the Canyon to preach he stopped in the Baylor home in Montell. He became very ill while there and died. He was buried in Montell, on the spot where the present cemetery is located, and was the first person to be buried there. The date was December 12, 1878.

The last Indian raid that occurred in the Montell country was made by a band of Indians coming in from the Cedar Creek country, in 1879. This band came by the McGowan place below the old fort at Camp Wood, about eight miles north of Montell. They stole several horses and drove them away in the night. When they came to the second mountain gap west of Montell, the horses tried to escape, but the Indians shot seven of them with arrows. Though soldiers came from Fort Clark, and followed them into Old Mexico, they were never caught.

Shortly after this last Indian raid, a band of men organized themselves into a group known as "The Montell Guards." The purpose of this body of "Minute Men" was to protect the frontier settlements against Indian raids. This unit was known as Company C, Texas Volunteer Cavalry, and was under the command of Captain Wilkerson. Others in the organization were: George W. Baylor, First Lieutenant; P. E. Dugat, Second Lieutenant; S. J. Arnold, First Sergeant; James Whitecotton, Second Sergeant; G. W. Bunting, Third Sergeant; C. W. McFaddin, Fourth Sergeant; T. H. Smith, First Corporal; William Wells, Second Corporal; J. F. Affleck, Third Corporal; W. G. Yancey, Fourth Corporal; W. F. Hardeman, J. E. Coleman, O. D. Reed, Y. O. Coleman, S. J. Baylor, Oscar D. Baker, J. W. Stockley, Enos Coleman, F. L. Goodman, J. L. Cunningham, G. F. Ling, W. H. Clark, Stephen Goodman, M. T. Person, Fred Behringer, W. C. Clubb, S. D. Goodman, John R. Baylor, William N. Edwards, Percival Payne, W. S. B. Owens, J. N. Edwards, T. J. Edwards, John D. Walker, J. G. Fellows, F. Gray, George W. Stockley, Wyatt and Leon Heard of Rio Frio, and Robert H. Boyd. J. L. Hobbs of the Frio section was also a "Minute Man" but not a member of this particular group.

In the early days, horsethieves, cattle rustlers, and men-on-the-dodge were numerous in the Canyon and Divide areas. Some old-timers say that there may have been as many as five hundred who operated through the country, from Travis County to the Rio Grande. Occasionally some genuinely bad characters would stop in the Canyon settlements on their way through the country, and terrify the law-abiding groups in the neighborhood. The Rangers constituted the only law in the area at that time, and in most places "Judge Holt" was the only law the people respected.

Members of the Peg-Leg gang, that operated in Kimble County, made infrequent trips through the region. Then there were Wes and Bill Bruten, Dell and Dick Dublin, Jim Fox, Butch Cassidy, Bill Templeton, Byrd Oberchain, Jim Honeycutt, Arkansas Johnson, and John Wesley Hardin. Fences were frequently cut, and cattle and horses stolen, by this lawless element.

The Texas Rangers were helpful in rounding up many of these outlaws, and in maintaining law and order in the area before the organization of county government was accomplished. At one time, a Ranger station was located on the outskirts of the present town of Barksdale. This location was called Camp Dixie and must have begun operating soon after the Civil War, and much earlier than the town of Dixie itself, for Frank Casey states that his father and fourteen other men came into the country right after the Civil War and brought a load of supplies to the Rangers stationed at Camp Dixie.

Another station was located down the river from Barksdale, near the place the Sam Grantland family pre-empted in the early '80's. Many old bullets, bullet molds, and weapons of various kinds have been found on this spot.

Rangers were stationed at Camp Wood from time to time after the place was abandoned as an army post. Traces of the old government road, which the soldiers traveled in going to Fort Concho and Fort McKavitt, can still be seen. This road passed near Barksdale, along the east bank of the Nueces to Vance and up Hackberry past the turnpike crossing, and out on the Divide at the head of Hackberry.

The village of Montell opened its first post office in 1880, and Miss Elizabeth Clark was its first postmistress. She continued as postmistress until her death some twenty-nine years later. The first mail service between Uvalde and Montell was rendered by William Wells in the late '70's, and the

mail at that time was carried on horseback. The mail came at first once a week, but was later increased to three times a week.

About 1880, the first store was built in Montell. It was owned and operated by Wallace and Keenan, and was located about fifty yards south of the old mission. The building was a saloon at first, and was also used as a courthouse. On one side of it was written in large letters "The First Chance" and on the other side "The Last Chance."

The first school was taught in Montell by Miss Maggie Clark, in a little cabin on the J. W. Bones place. A short time later, a school was built on the old camp meeting grounds.

J. J. Haynes moved to the Nueces Canyon in 1880, and settled on Hackberry Creek. He lived as neighbor to the Brown boys and the Billings families. Shortly after his arrival, he married one of the Brown girls. The Brown and Haynes families were among the first to introduce the Angora goat to that section. Mr. Haynes also ran a good string of cattle, and when the bad drought hit in the early '80's, he moved his stock to Uvalde County. He finally sold his cattle there for \$5.00 per head. Horses were selling at this time for the same price.

Lem Henderson came to the Divide country in 1880, and settled on Paint Rock Creek. In his memoirs, he recounts some interesting incidents of his ranching career. He distinctly recalls the time when the rustlers, the landowners, and the Texas Rangers had a fight at Green Lake, and that the rustlers came out second best in the engagement.

The Stieber family came to the Nueces Canyon in 1880, and settled near the town of Dixie. G. Stieber had brought his family West for his health, and being pleased with the country along the Nueces, and with the dry mountain climate characteristic of the region, had filed on a pre-emption of land joining the Wheat ranch on the south. There he and Mrs. Stieber prepared to make their home. Mr. Stieber was a man of many talents, and was active in setting up local and county government in the early '80's. He served as the first justice of the peace in the town of Barksdale, holding that office for several years.

The Wood family was one of the early families to move to the Nueces Canyon, and was one of the most active in the settlement and development of Edwards County. Tom, one of the Wood boys, has many interesting things to tell about

his early experiences in the country. Mr. Wood was in the Ranger service before moving to Edwards County, and served in that capacity for a number of years. He left the Ranger service on August 31, 1881, and on September first, settled up with the boys in his company, got his pay check, and bade them all good-by. It was with some sadness that he made his last farewell to the group, as he had become very closely attached to all the men through their close association over the years.

Mr. Wood went from the Ranger camp back to the home of G. C. Hamrick, who was, at that time, living in San Saba, and stayed there a few days, then went down to the head of the Guadalupe to visit his father's family. While he was there, he saw all of his brothers and sisters, and all his half brothers and sisters. That was the last time they were all at home at the same time.

Tom's father moved to New Mexico soon after that reunion, took pneumonia, and died there. One of his sisters died in New Mexico about the same time. There were originally fourteen children in the Wood family: Tom (J. T.), Henry (J. H.), Joe, Lum (C. C.), and Peter. Tom's half brothers and sisters were Lizzie, Belle, Nan, Ed, and Hugh.

After Tom's visit with his family on the Guadalupe, he went down to the head of Bullhead Creek, then on down to that stream to Vance, and down the Nueces to within a mile of Barksdale. He then turned west and went through a low gap in the mountains, where the Barksdale and Rocksprings road runs today. There was no road there then, and not much of a trail. After he passed through the gap, he struck the road that went up the Pulliam prong of the Nueces, then on up the river to where Pete Wallace lived.

The purpose of Tom's visit was to see Mr. Wallace's stepdaughter. He stayed in the Wallace home a few days, and helped Mr. Wallace make molasses. Before he started home, he told Mr. Wallace that he and his stepdaughter planned to get married and did Mr. Wallace have any objections. Mr. Wallace had none, so on October 2, 1881, Miss Mary Thompson and Mr. Wood were married. They stayed with Mr. Wallace's family about two weeks after their wedding, and then went back to the home of George Hamrick.

They stayed at the Hamricks' a few days, where Mr. Wood traded for a little piece of land near the Hamrick

place on the north side of the North Llano, about one mile above the mouth of Cypress Creek. This piece of land had been pre-empted by a man by the name of Balcum. Mr. Wood bought his claim. The place had no improvements on it, so Mr. Balcum sold Mr. Wood a tent, and he and his wife moved to the place. He then set out to improve it. He built a cow pen and a log cabin. He first put up the walls of the cabin, made boards out of logs, and covered it and built a chimney. He had it fixed up very well, except for the floor, which was of dirt.

They made another visit to the Nueces Canyon after they had finished the house, to see his wife's people. The Wallace family wanted them to move to the Canyon. It was in February, and the grass was so pretty and green in the Canyon, and everything looked so good that they decided to move if they could sell their place back on the Llano.

A few days after they returned home, a young man by the name of Grub Hamilton came along and offered Mr. Wood a very good price for the place. So he sold it to him and went to town to fix up the deed and to give Hamilton a title to the place. While in town, he saw another party who wanted to buy the place, but Mr. Wood had to tell him that the place had already been sold.

While Sam Raney was living on South Spring Creek, he and Mrs. Raney started from home one Sunday morning to go to church down at the mouth of Spring Creek, five or six miles below their place. It was on Sunday, April 20, 1881. On their way down the canyon, they saw that the Indians had killed one of John Haynes' cows. They came on down to Military Flat and there met some men from Leakey. The men in the party wanted Sam to go with them after some Indians they were pursuing. Sam had his wife and baby with him. The men wanted to go by Camp Dixie and get the Rangers, but Sam was not in favor of this proposal.

He took his wife and baby to Henry Wells' place, and left them there. He then went back to the head of Cedar Creek and got Nic Coalson, A. W. Pullen, Sam Taylor and Jim Welty. They went up to the head of Cedar Creek and down the Divide until they struck the Indians' trail. Next morning they sent a man to notify General Bullis at Fort Clark, who took up the trail and followed the Indians forty miles into Mexico. They located the Indians in the Santa

Rosa Mountains, surrounded the camp, got all of them, and recovered about seventy-five horses.

The last raid the Indians made in the country occurred August 19, 1882. The Indians came through the country and killed members of the McLauren family at Buzzard Roost on the Frio above Leakey. Allen Lease, a boy living with the McLaurens, was killed instantly, and Mrs. McLauren was wounded six times, dying a short time later. One of the McLauren girls was sent to get help at the home of George Fisher. James Hicks, Henry Wall, and a Mr. Fisher went up to Dave Thompson's house and got him, while Hicks went after John Leakey and J. B. Johnson. In all, twenty men gathered together to follow the Indians. W. J. McLauren was captain. Among the others were Tobe Edwards, James Hicks, Mr. Coryell, H. J. Coston, Henry Wall, Frank Pollard, George Leakey, M. V. Pruett, John Thompson, and Frank Saunders. J. L. Hobbs was also in the party. Most of the group turned back at Kickapoo Springs. McLauren, Edwards, Coston and Coryell continued on. These turned back just before reaching the Rio Grande. Coryell went by Fort Clark and informed General Bullis, who commanded a troop of Seminole scouts there at that time.

Bullis followed the trail into Mexico for five days, and overtook the Indians. All but one was killed, and he was badly wounded. A wounded squaw was captured.

After this Indian raid, the settlers in the Nueces Canyon were no longer bothered by the Indians. The Coalson massacre on Cedar Creek in 1879, and the killing of the McLauren family on the Frio, marked the end of Indian depredations in these localities. Heartened by the knowledge that Indians were no longer a threat, and encouraged by news that state lands were being offered for sale in the Nueces River country, people began to flock into the new country. They came in ox wagons, and on horseback, driving their herds of cattle, and carefully guarding their meager possessions, flocking into the valley from every direction.

The Canyon and Divide regions were still very sparsely settled areas in 1880. There were only three or four small settlements in the Canyon, and none on the Divide. In the lower Canyon was the village of Montell, built on the site of the old *San Bruno* Mission, and boasting a half-dozen families. Ten miles north of Montell was Camp Wood, built around the ruins of the Spanish Mission, *San Lorenzo de la*

Santa Cruz, really no settlement at all, just a nucleus of ranch families located near the Ranger station for the protection that it afforded. Four miles up the river was the Dixie settlement with a few families located in the village proper, and a number of ranch homes on the outskirts of the town. In 1880, Dixie had one saloon, which was operated by George Mays, a hotel run by a Mrs. Waldron, and a little store owned by J. L. Nix. The first store in the Canyon was operated by W. R. Webb and was located on the Vance road about four miles above Dixie. At the junction of the Main Nueces and Bullhead Creek was another settlement named Bullhead, which was given that name because an old buffalo bull's head was found on top of a high mountain, near the village, in an early day. Bullhead was the first seat of government for Edwards County in 1877, and one of the first post offices in the country was located there.

Frank Winans says his father came to the Nueces Canyon in 1880. The country was open and the range was free. Practically all the land belonged to the state and the railroad companies, and all a person had to do to settle was to pitch camp on a tract and call it his. Usually the people cut cedar logs, which were plentiful at that time, and erected a one- or two-room cabin. The cracks between the logs were chinked and daubed with mud. The floors were either dirt or puncheon timber logs split, hewn flat, and fitted together, a floor that never wore out, although there are none in the country today, even though there are still a few log houses. The doors were made to fasten with a latch on the inside. The latch always had a string attached by which it could be opened from the outside. The string always hung on the outside in daytime, but usually was pulled inside at night for safety.

For several years, these squatters' rights were respected. If a person wanted to buy a man's claim, he paid his price, perhaps a cow, or a horse, or maybe a sow and pigs. The man moved off and the new owner moved on — no deeds or papers were signed.

As the population increased, the settlers began to buy small tracts of school land or state land along the river, for water rights and to protect their small homes. These were usually bought in tracts of forty or one hundred and sixty acres, at a price of \$1.00 per acre, with forty years' time at 3% interest.

Mr. Winans recalls that, in the '80's and '90's, the times were very hard, so far as money was concerned. Stock was cheap, cows selling for three to six dollars a head. Still, it was not so hard to make a living, as expenses were not so great. There were always plenty of hogs and deer on the range, and the soil was new and rich for raising vegetables and corn. There were always wild plums, grapes, and dewberries, as well as plenty of fish in the streams.

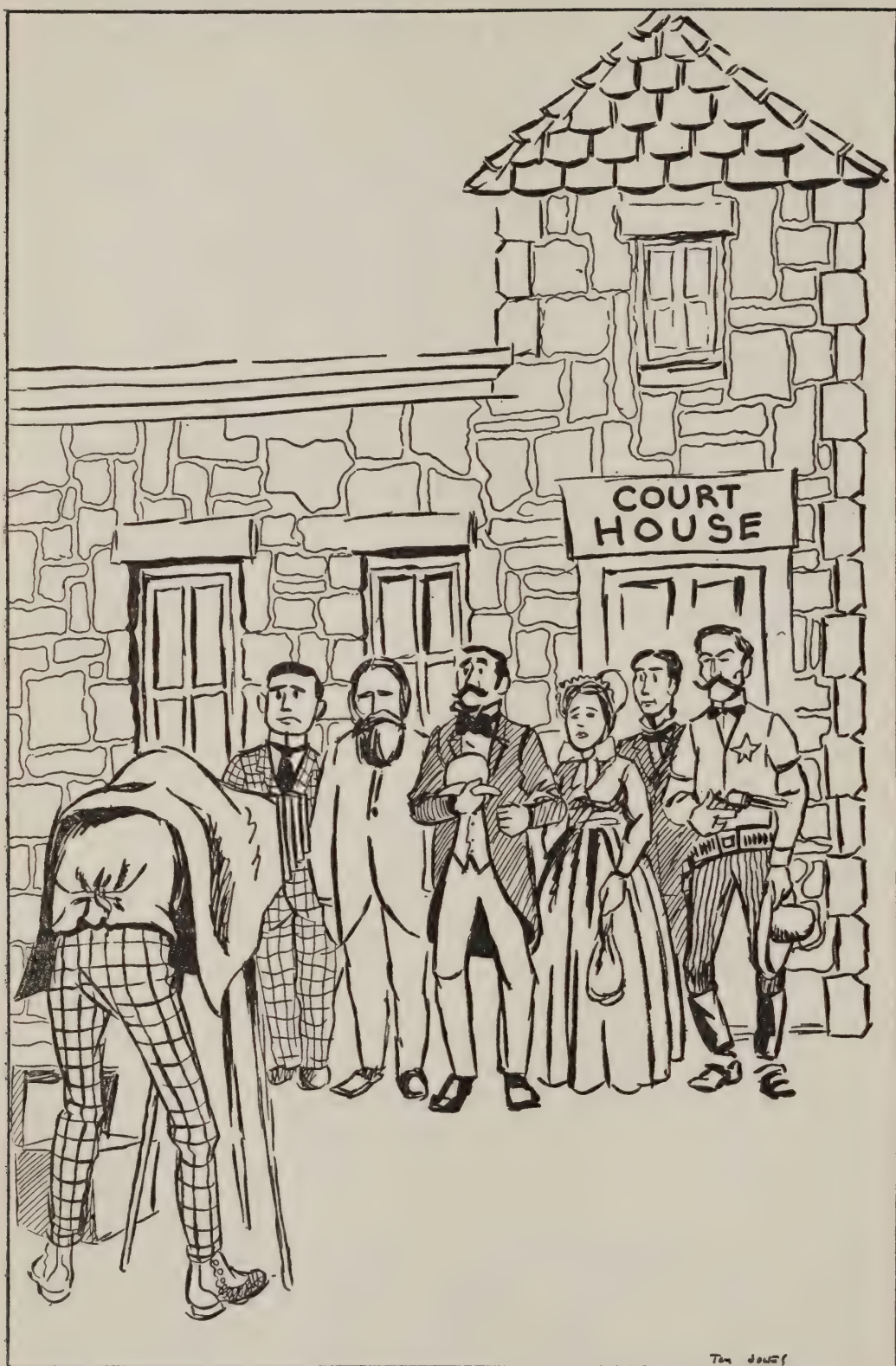
Droughts were more severe then than they are now. For one reason, people had to depend on the rainfall for grass to winter their stock. There was no cottonseed meal or cake, at that time. In some parts of the country, there was sufficient sotol, which was fairly good stock feed to winter the cattle. Sotol soon played out, and many cattle died from starvation. On the Divide, there were few ranches and few windmills. Practically all the water storage there was found in dirt tanks, which, in dry times, would soon evaporate, leaving the stock without water. This situation forced people to pump water day and night with pump jacks operated by horse or mule teams. Even at best, it was hard to keep enough water, and often stock would die of thirst, as well as from starvation.

Early schools were very poor at their best. There was no state aid, and in small neighborhoods where there were only six or eight children, they were taught in the kitchen or a side room of a home; these schools would last only two or three months out of the year. In the larger communities, a log schoolhouse would be built, with benches made from split and hewn logs with no backs to them. A teacher would be employed for a period of three to five months, at a salary of fifteen or twenty dollars a month. As the community would build up and the school population increase, state and county funds would become available.

With no standard schoolbooks then, and every family having its choice of books for the children to study, it was only natural that there would be more work for the teachers. For example, there would be three kinds of second grade readers, requiring three different lessons for that group, rather than one.

There was plenty of recreation for the people, in those days, and in many respects it was better than it is now. Occasionally there would be a political meeting at some home where everyone felt free to make a speech on any subject that he wanted to discuss. He would always get applause by

the clapping of hands, stamping of the feet, or knocking on the bedposts with the knuckles. Debating societies met on Saturday nights, to debate on any subject from dogs and cats to the Heavenly Kingdom. There was preaching nearly every Sunday. Many local preachers cut poles or plowed all the week, then preached on Sundays, expecting no pay, but preaching for the good they might do. There were other preachers, called circuit riders, who traveled on horseback from one settlement to another. If one dropped into the neighborhood, sometime during the week, someone would get on a horse and ride over the community to inform the people that there would be preaching. Everybody would come, bringing all the children and dogs. Most families had from five to ten children, and about the same number of long-eared hounds. The preacher would do his best — between the crying of the children, and the barking and fighting of the dogs — to deliver a sermon. During the summer, there would be camp meetings, which every family, regardless of denomination, would attend in wagons, taking a camp outfit and staying for a week or for the duration of the meeting.



CHAPTER IV

Organization of County Government — 1880-1890

Plans for local and county government had already been made by the year 1880. Bullhead was the county seat of the unorganized county of Edwards as early as 1877, and the local settlements had their Justice Courts. Judge Mabrey was the court in Montell and Mr. Stieber was the justice of the peace in Dixie.

Edwards County was originally a part of the county of Bexar. Bexar County was organized in 1837, and Edwards County was created, in 1858, from a portion of Bexar County. Edwards County was not organized until 1883. It was bounded on the north by Sutton County and Kimble, on the east by Bandera and Kerr, on the west by Val Verde and on the south by Kinney and Uvalde counties.

An election of May 14, 1877, separated Edwards from Kerr County. The election was held in the Dolton home. Mrs. Dolton was Mrs. L. C. Billings' mother. The people prepared for several days for this event. John C. Welch, father of Willie and Wiley Welch, held the election. They had a big table and each voter had a sheet of paper. He signed his name to the ballot, and rolled it up like a candle and put it on the table, the big end down. About one hundred people voted.

The first county seat was at Bullhead, now known as Vance. A member of the Parkerson family, who was postmistress at Bullhead for fifteen years, was asked one day while making a trip on a train, where she was from. She replied Bullhead. The party made fun of the town's name and the Bullhead citizens petitioned the Postmaster General to change the town's name to Vance. This change was made after the year 1880.

The second election was held about three months later, to determine whether the county seat should be moved to Leakey. The election was held at the Jim Brown ranch, then owned by Mr. and Mrs. G. Stieber. Mrs. Stieber was not at

home at the time, but, on her return, found that they had held an election in her cabin. Claims were made that the ballot boxes had been stuffed.

Edwards County was named for Hayden Edwards, who was an Impresario authorized by the Mexican government to settle families in Texas. Edwards soon ran into difficulties, because a considerable part of the tract allotted to him was already settled by Spaniards and Mexicans. He started a small revolution against the Mexican government by enlisting the aid of some friendly Indian tribes. After considerable fighting, he was forced to leave Texas. This conflict was known as the "Fredonian Rebellion" and the government set up by the insurrectionists was named "The Republic of Fredonia."

In the year 1880, Dan Taylor lived on the head of Cedar Creek where Johnny Coalson was wounded by the Indians. Ote Coalson lived at Half Moon Prairie on Cedar Creek. Bud Pullen lived down the river from Coalson about six miles. Arris Pullen had settled just across the river from Bud Pullen in a little log cabin. Abe Mulkey's family was on down the creek from the Arris Pullen home. The Bocardy family lived across Pulliam Creek from the Mulkey's. Jim, Ed and John Hill lived still farther down the river with their widowed mother. The John Pope family had settled on the old Frank Barksdale ranch about four or five miles northwest of Dixie. This place was the headquarters ranch of the Barksdale family.

The George Taylor family lived on the Pulliam prong of the Nueces, seven or eight miles above Dixie; the Sam Raney family was still on South Spring Creek, and the Henry Wells family lived at Bullhead. The Stiebers, the Wheats, and the Webers, lived on the east side of the Nueces from Dixie, the Weber family living about four miles above the Nueces on the Dry Creek fork of that stream.

In the Bullhead country were the Wells', the Parkersons, the Watkins', the Crows, the Wiley Welchs, the Willy Welchs, the Dave Burlesons, the Sanfords, and the Terrys. On the Bullhead prong of the Nueces were Abe and Mitt Holmes, the Kelly O'Learys on the head of the river, and the Dan Flynns, seven miles above Vance on the Bullhead prong.

The Ammon and Riley Billings', the Dolans, the Browns, the Haynes' and the Stockmans were on Hackberry.

In 1881, the Tom Dragoo family came to Edwards Coun-

ty and settled on the West Nueces. Mr. Dragoo was one of the first settlers to locate in the Kickapoo country, and the region, at that time, was wild and unsettled.

J. E. (Jess) Thurman came to Edwards County in 1881. When Jess was fourteen years old, his father started him alone on a 150-mile trip, with 600 steers in his charge. On this trip, he met with many hardships, finding no water for eighty miles and killing deer for food, but continuing with a determination that was inherited from his pioneer mother and father, and arriving at the head of the Nueces River with his steers. Here, where the present Thurman ranch is located, he found a wilderness which abounded in deer, bear, antelope, and other animals. The country was all open range, and the lad ran his herds here, buying and selling, again and again, adding to his stock and later fencing his land, and began the improvements that have resulted in the modern ranch that exists there today.

Mr. Thurman was married at the Old Dutch Battleground in Kinney County, on Christmas Day in 1892, to Miss Lillie Cox, a daughter of Captain A. M. Cox, early settler in the Kickapoo area.

In 1880, four families moved in from Bee County and settled on pre-emptions around the Dixie settlement. The Thomas Peter Rhodes family bought three-quarters of a league of land that lay just south of the village of Dixie and extended from Camp Wood Creek on the east to Pulliam Creek on the west, from J. C. Barksdale. The Sam Grantland family pre-empted a tract of land just south of the Rhodes land and lying between the Main Nueces and Pulliam Creek. The Uzzells settled on a pre-emption two or three miles northwest of Camp Wood, and the Y. O. Colemans two miles below Dixie and joining the Rhodes land on the south.

Soon after the arrival of these families, Grandpa Rhodes and Grandpa Uzzell made a trip to Nacogdoches, Texas, in their ox wagons, and hauled back a load of pine lumber to build houses on their ranches. These were probably the first lumber houses to be built in the country. The old Rhodes house, which used to be located on the left side of the highway one mile below Barksdale, later was moved and is now one of the Cecil Williams ranch houses. The house on the Uzzell place northwest of Camp Wood is still standing. These dwelling places stand as monuments both to the efforts and courage of those early pioneer families who came to make their homes on this new frontier.

The John Reagan and Barney Payne families moved in from the Llano country in 1882. They moved their household goods and their families in horse-drawn wagons. The Reagan family stopped at the John Pope place, and Barney Payne moved over on Pulliam just a mile or two from Military Mountain. Mr. Payne built a log cabin there, and, later on, the John Reagan family located about a half-mile above the Payne place.

In 1882, the Thompson family moved into the country and made their home some miles north of the George Taylor place. About the same time, the Pete Wallace family, the George Hamricks, and Grandma Wood, with her big family of boys and girls, moved in from the Llano, and took up land on Pulliam Creek and Polecat. The George Hamricks bought the Taylor pre-emption on Polecat, and the Pete Wallace and Wood families located on pre-emptions farther down the river.

The J. R. Sweeten family came to Edwards County in 1882, and settled at Dixie, just a short time before the town's name was changed to Barksdale. The Sweeten family helped in the laying out of the town of Barksdale, and in the organization of local government in the area. The Sweeten children received their first schooling on Cedar Creek, where perhaps the first school in the vicinity of Barksdale was located. In fact, it was one of the first schools in Edwards County, and was taught by Mrs. Fannie Stieber's sister, Miss Carrie Hoess-tresser. One of the Sweeten boys recalls that the school-house was located near Half Moon Prairie, two miles from Painted Bluff, and was near the place where the Coalson family was massacred by the Indians.

There was a big bunch of boys and girls in the Bob Sweeten family, most of whom married in the Canyon area, and many of whose descendants still live in Edwards County and surrounding territory.

W. J. Greer came to Edwards County in 1882. His first ranching in the country was on free range, there being no more than a dozen families in the whole Divide area of Edwards County at that time. Mr. Greer brought with him, to this new frontier, 385 head of sheep, two ponies, and a wagon, and Mr. Greer recalls that he still owed \$200 on the outfit. He settled on Green Lake, from which his ranch took its name, and lived on the place many years, adding to his holdings from time to time, until he came to own one of the largest ranches in the country. Mr. Greer's first experience

was as a sheepman, but he acquired a few goats as pets later, and still later on ran many cattle on his large ranch.

The settlement of Dixie had no government post office before the year 1882. It had been the custom for anyone going to Uvalde to pick up all the mail for the Dixie people, and bring it back with him. This mail was kept in a barrel in the front part of Sweeten's store, the town's only store, and as the people came into town they would go through the mail and pick out their own. This arrangement was not very satisfactory, so the local citizens applied to the Postmaster General at Washington for a post office to be established in Dixie. The request was granted, but in going through the files, the authorities found out that there was another town in Texas by the name of Dixie. So, before the post office could be granted, the town's name had to be changed. The people decided to call the place Barksdale, for a member of a family that had settled in the country some years before, Miss Keziah Barksdale.

The post office was promptly granted thereafter, and James M. Neel was appointed the town's first postmaster on September 20, 1882. The first post office was located in a log building near the center of the town.

Barksdale was not long in establishing its first saloon. Dab Boales was operating a tavern on top of the hill on the west side of Main Street in 1882, and in 1883 the town boasted three places where liquor was dispensed to thirsty customers.

Alonzo Luce made his first trip to the Canyon in 1881. He liked the country so well, with its broad valleys and its clear streams, and its abundance of wild game, that he decided to go back to Lockhart, his home town, and move his family back to this frontier paradise. His mind made up, he returned home, loaded his family and his household goods in wagons, rounded up his cattle and his horses, and headed for the Nueces Valley. He made his first residence on Lake Creek, but stayed there only a few months, at which time he moved down to the place that has remained in the Luce family for more than seventy years.

Mr. Luce made several trips up the trail back in the early days before he came to the Canyon. He recalls one time that he went along with a trail herd in 1870, the destination of the drive being Dodge City, Kansas. He remembers that he and a friend, Joe Roberts by name, went up together with the drove of cattle, and while they were going through the

Indian Territory, the trail boss told them to go back and gather some weak dogies that were straggling in the rear of the main herd. They met a bunch of Indians, who cut them off from their own party. The Indians formed a V about them, but the cowboys turned and went back, the Indians following them. When the Indians saw the other cowboys, they fled.

In those days, Luce said that he had crossed thirteen states on horseback, following trail herds and working cattle. He went up the trail on another occasion with Bill Montgomery. He and Bill drove 600 Spanish ponies, through the cold and the rain, across swollen streams and through Kansas tornadoes and stampedes, and carried them to a rail line in one of the North Central states.

Just a short time after his arrival in this country, Mr. Luce and his father cut the posts and strung them along the fence line of the old Gillespie ranch, the first ranch fenced in the Canyon. The line ran from Dry Camp Wood Creek to Ranch Creek. That fence was built long before Camp Wood town was thought of. Mr. Luce does recall that, while they were building the fence, they saw a band of Rangers camped one day at the Camp Wood Springs. These Rangers had been working the upper Canyon for outlaws and horse-thieves, and had a bunch of men chained to some trees there.

Mr. Luce brought with him to the country a very large brass bell on one of his milk cows. His family still has this bell in its possession, and it is considered a priceless heirloom. The bell may be heard on a quiet day for more than three miles. In the early days, the bell was used as a distress signal. It is considerably over a hundred years old, and is thought to be the largest cowbell in the state.

About the same time the Luce family settled on their permanent ranch headquarters, the Humphrey family moved in and settled on the Five Oaks ranch above the Luce place. The Wells family had left this place in the early '70's to move farther up the Canyon. There was an old log house on the place then that had been built back in 1847 by a man named F. M. Box. Mr. Box had dug a well on the location while living there. William Cox had lived in this cabin, before members of his family were massacred by the Indians. The Bellah family had lived there, too, and Henry Bellah was born there. The elder Bellah had shot Indians from the portholes in the logs. The old man and the old lady Hum-

phrey died in the house, and are buried not more than 150 yards from its location.

Schools for the children in the Canyon soon became a problem for parents with children of school age. Most of the early schools were private schools financed by individual families or groups of neighboring families. Private tutors were employed for these schools. This practice of employing private teachers continued long after the turn of the century in isolated ranch homes, and sparsely-settled areas where access to public schools presented a great problem.

One of the earliest private schools in the upper Canyon was taught by a Mr. Paxton; about ten or twelve children attended his school. A little later on, citizens of Barksdale built a small picket house some distance east of Main Street, and employed a Mr. Crawford to teach the school. The George Taylor children, Jim and Leb, Rufus and Carl Kirchner, and several of the John Pope children, attended this school. The first term lasted three months.

One of the first schools that was ever taught on Pulliam was taught by a Mr. Burr. Mrs. Maggie Wallace recalls in her memoirs that she attended that school, and that Mr. Burr was her grandfather. The Wallace family lived on Little Hackberry at the time. Grandpa Burr had thirteen pupils in his school. They were Rila and Franklin Sweeten, Floyd and Betty Hamrick, Effie Pettys, Robert Hunter, George Epps, Jim Short, Lee, Austin and Omah Allison, Drew, Annie and Davis Whitehurst, and Maggie Wallace.

The schoolhouse was a little log cabin with a chimney to it. It stood where Walter Craig later built his home. Grandpa Burr boarded with the school patrons, a month at each place.

The Wallace family sold the old place on Pulliam, and bought the place later owned by John Leonard. Mr. Burr bought it from Old Man Dow Allison. He gave a few head of goats for the place.

The Wallace family and the George Taylor family were close neighbors, and they used to have big times at the community dances. Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Raney, Uncle George and Aunt Caroline Taylor, the Pullens, Mr. and Mrs. George Hamrick, and the Wallace family would give dances and suppers for the young folks. They would dance all night and maybe have breakfast before they went home the next morning. The McBees also lived on Pulliam, and gave many dances. There were Uncle

Billy McBee and Uncle Marion McBee. The young folks always went to the dance on horseback. The people at the head of the canyon would start out and pick up everyone down the line who wanted to go to the dance. By the time they got to the dance, they would have a big crowd. Old Man Buck Green and Jim Green were the main fiddlers. There were the Pope boys and Hop Burleson, and Hal Pannell, too.

Mr. Wallace remembers that Dave Allen was a great hunter, and that Sam and Jessie Thurman used to come over every winter from Kickapoo and bring their hounds, and hunt bear for two or three weeks and divide the furs and meat. At night, they would sit at the fire, broil ribs, and tell the stories of the day's hunt. The last thing done before going to bed was to doctor the dogs' feet with a salve Grandma Burr would make for them. She made it out of soft pine, tallow and camphor gum. It looked and smelled like mentholatum.

No effort was made before 1880 to erect a church building in the Canyon, although many of the Canyon folks were very religious people. Church services were always held in the homes or under brush arbors until after the schools were built, when these houses were used as meeting places for the people to worship in.

Periodically, itinerant preachers, missionaries and circuit riders visited the Canyon, and preached wherever a place could be found to preach.

Bro. Bill Edwards was one of the first of these early preachers, but the denomination that he represented has been forgotten with the passing of time. Others followed him, and the story of their missionary efforts runs like a golden thread through the fabric that is the history of the Nueces Canyon.

Fannie Epps was the first child to be born in the town of Barksdale. A close runner-up was Robert Raney, who was born on South Spring Creek, January 21, 1881. Scuff Raney was born in 1882 at the same place. In the early days, people had no doctors to serve on such occasions, so the older pioneer women often acted in the capacity of doctor. These women were called midwives, and they were present not only at birth of babies, but they frequently made long journeys to help in caring for sick people everywhere. Grandma Sanchez was perhaps the very earliest of these early pioneer women doctors. She was helpful on many occasions in relieving people of their ailments. It is said that she was the one who re-

moved the arrow from the leg of Jim Hill, when he was wounded by the Indians in the early '70's. Grandma Cummins, Grandma Pennington, Grandma Roberts, Grandma Pope and Grandma Cromeans were other early women doctors.

The tide of immigration to the Canyon began to swell during the late '70's, and by 1882 a steady stream of families were coming into the Canyon. The family of Alec Merritt came from Kerrville and settled above Vance on the old government turnpike. His pre-emption was located about four miles up the main Nueces and lay in a broad valley between low-lying hills, and the ranch cabin stood on the west bank of the Nueces River. It was a beautiful homesite, but soon other families moved in and located around the Merritt claim, and the area became so crowded that Mr. Merritt decided to move farther up the river. The new location was on the Hackberry prong of the Nueces, and it became the home of the Merritt family for many years.

In 1882, the Bill Connell family came to Edwards County and bought the Merritt pre-emption on the turnpike.

One of the first doctors to move to the Canyon was Dr. Graham, who came in the early '80's and settled on the Nueces about three miles below Vance. Dr. Graham had a big family of boys and girls, thirteen boys and one girl.

Lon Welch moved his family, a wife and two children, to the Canyon in 1882, and settled on Spring Creek west of Barksdale. The Welchs came from Kosse, Texas, in Limestone County. The two Welch children, Joe and Birtle, were just small boys when the family arrived on South Spring Creek to make their home.

Joe Frazier Brown came to Edwards County and located on the head of Main Nueces in 1882, before the county was organized. Mr. Brown helped to organize the county in 1883. He came from Llano County and was looking for free land. There were only three houses around the village of Bullhead then. The people lived in tents and ate dried beef and bread. Parkerson ran a little store in Vance then, and a person could buy a few items there. Mr. Brown ran cattle at first, but was one of the first ranchers to introduce goats into that section of the country. Goats were selling then for \$1.50 to \$2.00 per head.

People made sour dough biscuits in those days; bread dough was made up one day to be cooked the next.

Johnny Brown was a bachelor. He brought in Angora

goats from Hays County from Col. Haupt, who got them from an Englishman to whom they were shipped from England. Johnny Brown brought seventy-two head to Edwards County. He was the first man to register goats in Sutton County. To identify registered goats, they used silver bands with the name of the owner and number of the goat.

All the houses on East Prong were made of logs and pickets, except Mr. Hicks' at Hackberry, which was made of planks. Lumber was so scarce that people sometimes used planks off the Hicks house to make coffins.

The nearest doctor lived at Montell. Mr. Brown says that it was a case of survival of the fittest. Those who survived were strong pioneers.

For entertainment, Mr. Brown says that the people had candy pullings, dances, barbecues and Fourth of July celebrations. The people were all staunch Confederates and dyed-in-the-wool Democrats.

The country was wild and unsettled, making an ideal haven for outlaws and criminals from other parts of the state. Lots of stealing went on, but the outlaws didn't molest the people much otherwise, for fear of getting caught.

All trading was done in those days with cash — mostly gold. There were no checks and no mortgages. If one wanted a homestead, he would file on a pre-emption, and do the necessary legal work through the Land Office in Austin.

The stores carried open accounts and everybody trusted each other to pay. Hardly ever was there any money lost on bad debts. Every fellow helped his friends, and everybody was neighborly.

As told by George W. Baylor:

"Sometime in the summer of 1882, while I was sheriff of Uvalde County, I was sitting in front of a little store in Montell in that county when a man rode up on a beautiful grey horse, freshly clipped. He dismounted, tied his horse, passed me and entered the store. I called to the clerk that a customer was there, and he replied that he would be there in a moment. The clerk came to the door and dropped a card over my shoulder. I looked at the card and saw that it gave a description of the horse, and offered a \$50.00 reward for the animal. While the man was in the store, I walked out to the horse and looked him over carefully, and being satisfied that it was the stolen animal described on the card, I took the man's Winchester carbine from the saddle. After making some purchases in the store, the man came out and I covered

him with the Winchester, and told him he was my prisoner. He protested his innocence, and told the old story that he had bought the horse from a Mexican and could prove it. I said, 'Young man, that story won't go out here, as they don't clip horses anywhere except in San Antonio.'

"I sent a boy to get Captain Thomas Clubb, the justice of the peace, who lived several miles up on Montell Creek, and while we were waiting for Captain Clubb, a wagon with three men in it came up and stopped. The men got out and began preparing to cook dinner. While the meal was being prepared, I asked one of the men to guard the prisoner. He readily complied with my request; he had a new Winchester rifle, one of the kind which had a catch that held the lever in place so that cartridge would not be thrown into the barrel without first turning the catch off. This arrangement on the fellow's gun probably saved my life.

"We were invited to dinner, and the man who was guarding the horsethief came to where I was sitting, cowboy-fashion, and gave his gun to me. I had the prisoner's gun, also. I asked the prisoner to eat dinner, but he said he did not care for anything to eat. He was sitting across the camp-fire from me when suddenly he made a spring and grabbed both guns. I caught hold of the one belonging to him and jerked it out of his hand. He stuck the other one against my stomach, and snapped it, all the time trying to work the lever to charge the gun and shoot me. I fired at him and the bullet clipped off most of his fingers. Then he threw down the Winchester, raised up his hands, and began to beg for his life.

"The men in camp got a rope and were making ready a necktie party, and the prisoner begged me to save his life. I told the men that I would not stand for a hanging, and they talked of sending for my father, General Baylor. I was desperate and told them that the first man that started to call the general would be shot in the leg. Things quieted down and we decided to question the prisoner some. I looked over the card, and saw that it described another man, and horse, so I told Thief No. 1 that if he did not tell me where Thief No. 2 was I would let the hanging go on. He said his partner was waiting for him near the schoolhouse. We sent for Dr. Whipple, who dressed the man's wounded hand, and took off the fingers, then we put him in the rear of the store for safekeeping, and all of us went hunting for the second thief, the clerk being left in the store to guard the

prisoner. I found the other fellow's horse and brought him in, and the clerk informed me that a young man had come into the store while we were absent and bought some bread and left, telling the clerk that he had left his wagon up the road. We took his trail and soon caught him. They confessed to stealing the horses, and were taken to San Antonio, where they were tried and each given ten years in the penitentiary.

"Several years afterward, someone called me up one night, and when I went to the door I found the man whom I had shot. He said, 'Sheriff, I don't suppose you know me.' I said, 'Yes, I knew you the first thing, I looked at your hand.' He said, 'I wanted to see you, as I made some foolish remarks about killing you when I got out of the penitentiary. I want to thank you for saving my life, and tell you that from now on I am going straight. I learned to be a carriage-painter while in prison and if you want your buggy or carriage painted, I will be glad to do the work for you free of charge.' He told me his partner had died in prison. The grey horse he had stolen belonged to a man named Smith, the other horse belonged to J. R. Hofheinz, who was a prominent businessman of San Antonio."

The above story, as told by George W. Baylor, appeared in *Frontier Times* magazine, page 419, Vol. 6, No. 10, July, 1929. The events of the story happened before Edwards County was organized in 1883, while the unorganized county was under the jurisdiction of Uvalde County.

The following is a quotation from *Frontier Times*, Vol. 22, No. 4, January, 1934, page 109-111, Sergeant Ira Aten, Company D, Texas Rangers.

"It was on one of these scouting expeditions up the Nueces Canyon, some eighty miles from Uvalde, that I located a man who was wanted back in Tennessee for murder. He was at a lonely place far up the canyon. Very few, if any, of the houses in that country during those early days were fenced. You could ride right up to the door and holler, 'Hello.'

"In rounding up a house in which we believed a suspect might be hiding, either by day or night, the pack mule, with all his equipment, was always at our heels. He would run around the house a time or two, snort several times as only a mule or jackass can do, and then go to grazing on nearby grass, leaving it up to us to finish the job.

"When we rode up to this particular house and called for the occupants, a man past middle age came out. He was

the one I wanted, so I read the warrant for his arrest, charging him with murder. I will never forget the downcast look on his face as he listened to me read.

"When he was a young man, some thirty years before, he had killed his rival in love, and then became a wanderer for many years. He came to Texas, married, and drifted out to the western part of the State. It was at his home in Nueces Canyon that we had picked him up. He had never told his wife anything much about his past life. He had been a hard worker and had accumulated some cattle and goats. He had a family of six children, the oldest boy being about fourteen.

"I shall never forget the scene when the news was broken to his wife and children. His wife, wringing her hands in anguish, wanting to know what it was all about, wept as though her heart would break. The little children clung to his hands and around his legs, crying, 'Papa, don't go, don't go, Papa.' He bade his wife and children good-by, saying, 'I may never return.'

"I felt tears running down my cheeks and I looked at the boys who sat on their horses nearby. Not a dry eye could I see. We cut the farewell short and were soon off on our long journey back to Uvalde, a three days' ride. On our way back, I stopped at the home of the nearest neighbor, five miles away, and asked them to look after the man's family, feeling that he would return to them before long.

"The trip to Uvalde was not any different from the many we had made before. However, I will say that this prisoner was one of the most obedient and agreeable men I ever had to bring in. He was handcuffed to one of the boys each night, as was our custom, for safety. This was done so we would not have to stand guard. Our prisoners seldom ever made the slightest effort to break away from us at any time, after getting them under control. We also had leg irons with us on these trips, but used them only when we knew the prisoner was a dangerous man.

"This man was sent back to Tennessee on the old charge. I wrote a letter to the state officials, telling all the circumstances about the family in the faraway mountains without protection, and the loved ones at his home. He stayed in jail about six months. As the state could not get the witnesses against him to make a case, some of them having died, and others moved out of the state, he was released and immediately returned to his family in the mountains. I began to think maybe I was too zealous in hunting down

criminals after this sad experience."

The J. L. Nix family joined the stream of immigrants in 1880, and, in company with the Frank and Lee Winans families, came and located in the town of Barksdale. Mr. Nix built a home under the hill on the edge of town, and operated a little store on the side of the hill north of his residence. This store was one of the first mercantile businesses to be established in Barksdale.

The Frank Winans family settled on Cedar Creek near the Bud Pullen place, and Lee Winans located his family on Holmes Hollow above Vance on Bullhead prong, on the Nueces.

The Ramsey family moved in about this time, too, and built a home in Barksdale. The Ramsey house was one of the first lumber dwellings to be built in Barksdale. It was located on Main Street near the center of town, and served for a number of years as the Barksdale post office.

Billy Bledsoe came into the country in the early '80's and was Barksdale's first blacksmith. A great deal of mystery surrounded the life of Mr. Bledsoe. He came into the country alone, and appeared to be a man of considerable learning. He was quiet and unassuming and never talked to anyone regarding his past history. Some people thought that he had once been a member of the Jesse James band, and others said that he was one of Quantrell's men. The rumors were unfounded, but most folks knew that some kind of trouble had clouded his early life, and that he had come to the Canyon to live a new life and to try to forget the past.

The Hext boys, Bob and Lee, moved to Edwards County in an early day before the organization of the county, and located near the headwaters of the Main Nueces, a country which was, at that time, still an unsettled wilderness.

The Gray brothers came from the Llano country in the early '80's and operated a cow ranch near the Divide on the head of the main river. Their cattle ranged in the area around the Devil's Sinkhole, and in the brakes of the upper Nueces.

One of the first bunches of goats to be moved to that part of the Divide country was a herd of 2000 head that the Arnold boys brought there in the fall of 1882 to winter on the fresh range. When the Arnold brothers moved this flock from their ranch below Camp Wood, Al McDonald, a ranchman of that vicinity, threw in a herd of sheep with the Arnold boys, and moved them to the Divide along with the Arnold goats. It

was near their camp that Frank Gray had a crew of men working on a fence line on his cow ranch. Mr. Gray was building a barbed wire fence around a 4000-acre tract he owned in that locality, and it is claimed that that fence was the first one to be built on the Divide.

Johnny Brown moved his flock of goats to the Hackberry country about this same time.

The Rube Stewart family moved to Barksdale in the early '80's, about the time that the J. R. Sweeten family located there. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Sweeten were associated together in the promotion and development of the town of Rocksprings, when it was founded after 1890.

John Reagan, who lived at the mouth of Spring Creek in 1882, recalls an interesting experience that year while he was making a trip to San Angelo. He took his wagon and six-mule team to that trading center after a load of buffalo meat. He camped on the Concho one night near San Angelo, and that night he tied his mules to the wagon wheels, made his bed in the wagon, which was covered with a sheet and bows, and went to bed. He had been in bed just a short time when coyotes began to howl and owls began to hoot. Knowing what this meant, he crawled out of the wagon and crawled underneath it, wrapping himself in a dark blanket. The Indians shot his wagon all over with arrows, cut the mules loose, and got away with them. A few of the Indians stayed to pilfer his wagon, and one Indian hid behind a big log near the wagon. Every few minutes, this Indian would jump on the log and howl like a coyote and shoot at the wagon. The moon was shining on the log, but Mr. Reagan was in the shade. The Indian then began to shoot under the wagon, so Mr. Reagan shot him. He then crawled out from under the wagon, slipped out through the brush, and walked to the fort, which was several miles from his camp. He had to walk barefoot, as his shoes were in the wagon. When he arrived at the fort, the soldiers gave him some shoes and a horse and saddle, then they went after the Indians. They had a fight and recovered four of the stolen mules. When the soldiers arrived at Mr. Reagan's camp, they could see that the Indians had raided it, taking all the food, bedding, and clothes. The dead Indian had been left by a log, with a large bundle of dried meat on top of him, also bows and arrows, beads and belts. The beaded things were pretty, and Mr. Reagan kept them for many years.

While Mr. Reagan was away from home on this trip, Will

Payne heard that there was a large band of Indians in the country, so he came over to stay with Mrs. Reagan and the children. He owned a very fine horse, which was really a pet, and he didn't want the Indians to steal him, so at night he would tie the horse to the porch post; then he would sleep with his head in the door. This, of course, frightened Mrs. Reagan very much. During the night, the Indians slipped up, cut the rope, and jumped on the horse and got away before Mr. Payne could get a shot at them. The next morning, the Reagan's milk cow had arrows in her side, and several arrows were found embedded in the porch.

In the late '80's and the '90's, the settlers depended on wild honey for their sweet food. Many of the steep hillsides had bee caves in them, and it was very little trouble to find hollow trees loaded with fine honey.

Sam Raney relates that his family lived on bear meat and wild honey in the early days. On one occasion, when the supply of honey had run low, Mr. Raney and one of his neighbors, a Mr. McKagin, went up the river to a bluff, where a good bee cave was located. This cave was on a bluff above a big hole of water, and was hard to get to. Mr. Raney let McKagin down on a rope, and he started to work. In a little bit, he came out covered with bees, and hollered for Sam to pull him up. Sam was a little hard of hearing at the time, and he thought McKagin said cut the rope, so cut the rope he did. Down McKagin went into that hole of water. He had his boots on and it was a little hard for him to swim, but he spouted water like a whale and began to swim out. When he got out Sam was gone, and Sam goes on to say that he didn't see McKagin for some time after that.

The year 1883 is remembered as the year that county government was organized in Edwards County. Elections were held that year in Barksdale, Vance, and Leakey to determine the location of the county seat. People who recall the events of this election say that a great many more votes were cast than there were voters in the county. Some of the old-timers state that there were 500 votes cast at Barksdale, 500 at Vance, and 1200 at Leakey. It seemed that the town that boasted the fastest writers won the election, because a man, whenever he came in to vote, voted for all his friends, too, whether dead or alive. Couriers were dispatched between the towns to get news on election results, so that in the event that one town appeared to be getting too much of a lead, the other towns might have an opportunity to round up

more voters.

After the election was over and the votes were counted, Leakey was declared to be the county seat. Cries of protest rose from the Vance and Barksdale people that the election was illegal, and that the Leakey people had stuffed their ballot box. Nevertheless, men came on horseback and in wagons, and transported the records from Vance to Leakey, and before many days had passed, temperatures and tempers had returned to normal.

The first officers of the county were: Julius Hillyer, county judge; Ira L. Wheat, sheriff and tax collector; C. R. Jackson, county clerk; C. H. Kirchner, commissioner for precinct No. 2; Will Terry was appointed deputy for the Vance precinct, and Dave Burleson, the justice of the peace for Vance.

These officials had their offices in an old lumber building in the town of Leakey.

In 1883, the Yost family, the Epplers, the Pannells, the Tuckers, the Parkersons, and the Joe Roberts' all moved into the Canyon and settled around Vance. Dr. Pannell and his family settled on Bullhead, as did the Tuckers, the Yosts, and the Epplers. The Millard Parkersons settled across the river south of Vance, and John Parkerson settled in Vance and operated a little store there. The first residence of the Yosts — and the Roberts — was on Dry Creek.

Mrs. Hunter, a widow, came into the country along with the Yosts and the Pannells. Mrs. Hunter had three grandsons who came to the country with her, Joe, Gus and Lannie Haynes. The Haynes boys lived with their widowed grandmother on Bullhead.

In 1883, Dow Perkins moved his family to the Canyon and settled at the mouth of Open Hollow above Vance. The John Perkins family stopped at Barksdale and located in a little picket house in the southwest part of the town. Dick Perkins recalls that he was just a small boy when his family arrived in Barksdale. As the wagon was coming up the hill into town, he remembers that he stuck his head from under the wagon sheet just in time to see a man riding down the hill on a horse, shooting a pistol with one hand, and ringing a cowbell with the other. Dick says that he saw no more of Barksdale on that trip. John Perkins says that Barksdale had three saloons in 1883.

Joe Roberts' oldest daughter, now Mrs. Sallie Reavis, recalls some of the things that happened on their trip from

Bastrop County to the Canyon. She was eleven years old when her people reached Edwards County. She says that their party was one month on the road. They came with the Dr. Pannell family, and were driving a considerable herd of cattle. They had lots of little calves on the road. Dr. Pannell had a big hack, and Hal Pannell laced ropes in the hack and hauled the young calves too weak to follow their mothers. They stopped at the old Dietert ranch on the Divide, and stayed about a week to rest and recuperate their stock. They moved down Bullhead and stayed one night at the Kelly O'Leary ranch, near the head of the creek. Their dog had puppies there that night, and a wheel to one of their wagons broke. The next morning, they propped the wheel up with some cedar poles, and went in to Barksdale where they had the wheel fixed at the Ackerley blacksmith shop.

Aunt Sallie says that there was a camp meeting going on in Barksdale and that she saw Old Man Frank Winans and Mr. Nix there with their families. Lawrence Cox, a preacher who had married Joe Roberts and his wife, a good many years before, was holding the meeting. The Roberts family stopped in Barksdale several days, and attended the meeting. They renewed old acquaintanceships with the Winans and Nix families, whom they had known back in Bastrop County.

When they left Barksdale, they went up Dry Creek and bought a small place now known as the old Tobe Edwards place. Joe Roberts wanted to get his wagons unloaded, so he could begin freighting, so he stored his supplies and his household goods in a log house above the Edwards place until he could get possession of the one he had bought. There were no other houses on Dry Creek above there, except one old board house that some sheepherder had thrown up and abandoned years before.

The Roberts' arrived at the Tobe Edwards place in the spring of 1883. That fall they moved to a place on the Main Nueces west of Vance. The Johnson family was one of their neighbors, and the Potters lived below them on the river, about a mile below Vance. John Chapman had a little store on the bank of the river below Vance, and there was a little school near the cemetery.

Soon after the Joe Roberts family left Dry Creek, the Math Taylor family moved in and settled at the place vacated by the Roberts'. The McDonalds, relatives of the Taylor family, came in with them and located on a place nearby.

These two families brought cattle into the country with them, and were farmers, too, back in their old home places, so they began to clear land along the banks of the stream that ran through their places, and before long had built irrigation ditches to bring the water from the creek to their cultivated patches. The Taylor family built what was perhaps the first ditch to be built in that vicinity.

The C. E. Franks family moved to Edwards County in 1883, and bought a tract of land about fifteen miles south of Rocksprings on the head of Cedar Creek. The Franks people were at first cattlemen, but later turned to the raising of sheep and goats. Much of the country around the Franks ranch was wild and unsettled in 1883. The Nic Coalson family lived on Cedar Creek south of the Franks place, and the Thurmans and Dragoos across the Divide on the west at Kickapoo Springs.

The Buck Green family came to Edwards County in 1883, from Erath County. It was in the fall of the year when they made the trip, coming in horse-drawn wagons. They had no trouble on the way. They camped one night near a place where a Negro family lived, and in the preparation of the evening meal, members of the Green family had to go to the Negro cabin for water. The Negro woman at the hut had a little baby, and Ethel Green, now Mrs. Ethel Pope, who went with her father to get the water, wanted to see the baby. The woman let her see it, and Ethel says it was the cutest little thing she ever saw. It was the first Negro baby she had ever seen.

The family came on down from Kerrville by way of Hackberry. There was hardly any road there at the time. At one place on the Divide, the family ran out of water. Mr. Green divided part of the water they had left between the children and saved the rest for the horses. The horses came first. It took them nearly all day to get to Vance. They stopped at the Dave Burleson place above Vance, Dave Burleson being a brother-in-law to Buck Green. They drove up to the house, and Judy, one of the Burleson girls, just shouted and screamed for joy. They stayed there two or three days. Jim Burleson, a bachelor, lived there with the Burleson family.

The Green family located on a place about a mile above the Burleson ranch on Bullhead Creek.

Mrs. Ethel Pope says they lived on Bullhead about a

year, and that the rustlers got so bad that her father decided to move back to Erath County. The outlaws would operate from the Rio Grande, and would sometimes pen the stolen stock near the Green cabin to brand it out. Mr. Green got to thinking about what these rustlers were doing, and for fear that they might implicate him and his family, he decided to move back East.

The Tom Wood family moved in the spring of 1882 to the Nueces Canyon. They settled on some school land close to the headwaters of the Pulliam prong of the Nueces River. When the Woods moved to the Canyon, their livestock consisted of sixty or seventy head of cattle. There was just one family living on the river above the Woods' place, on the edge of the settlement. The country was just being organized, and Edwards County was quite large then — almost a territory. Wild game abounded in the hills. Mr. Wood says that there were more turkeys than he ever saw anywhere in his life, except on the Llano. The turkeys would sometimes roost so close to the house that one could stand in the yard and shoot them. There were deer everywhere, and the hills were full of bear.

Mr. Wood recalls the first bear he killed after he moved to the Canyon. Pete Wallace and his son Fillmore went with Mr. Wood on that hunting trip. The three men went up the lefthand draw of the Pulliam prong of the Nueces about four miles above the Woods' place, where there were some bear using a big thicket. They got to the thicket about sunup and started through with the dogs running as fast as they could, barking at every jump. There was a good trail through the thicket, and Mr. Wood and Fillmore had a race through it and up the mountain for about a mile. When they got to the top of the mountain, they heard the dogs bay off down a rough hollow. They quit their horses and ran down the mountain, and when they got within sixty or seventy yards of the bear, the bear saw them and began to come down the tree it had climbed. Mr. Wood shot at it but missed, and the dogs ran it about 150 yards when they treed it again. The men ran up to the tree, and Fillmore told Mr. Wood to wait and let him shoot first. As Mr. Wood had already shot at the bear once, he stood by to let Fillmore shoot. The shot missed, so Mr. Wood stepped up and shot the bear through the head, and it fell out of the tree, dead. He was a young bear, fat and good eating. Mr. Wallace brought the horses on down the mountain, and they soon had the bear

skinned and were ready to start home.

Asa Pullen was very active in the organization of Edwards County in 1883.

One of the most daring and intrepid of the early hunters was William Wells, whose parents came to the Canyon in 1867. Most of William's early life was spent in hunting bear and other game, or in chasing Indians. Mr. Wells remembers one particular bear hunt that he had on South Spring Creek.

It was a June morning. Jack McGowan, Ross Whistler, and Frank Weaver were at the Wells home. A few days before, a man had treed a large bear in a cave four miles west of the ranch. Frank, Bill, Ross and Jack decided to go after that bear.

After dinner was over and the men had had a good rest, they mounted their horses to go to the cave. The cave was on South Spring Creek near the Kinney County line. Mr. Frank Whittington had told Mr. Weaver that a bear was killing his and Bill Kirchner's hogs, and that he wanted to join in the hunt. The men traveled over several miles of rough country and, when near a spring, called McWeber, they struck the trail. Frank Weaver got in the lead of the party, and saw the bear going up the side of the mountain across the draw from him. He took a shot at him, and the bear went into a cave. The rest of the party soon overtook Mr. Weaver, and in a short time they reached the cave. The cave was forty feet deep at its mouth and almost straight down. A cedar tree hung out over the mouth of the cave, so they let men down into the hole on ropes tied to the tree. Frank and Bill went down first. They carried with them lights, and .44 caliber rifles. Bill was in the lead, and he struck the bear before he reached the bottom. He fired three shots at the bear, after which the lights went out. Bill's foot slipped and he and the bear made the rest of the trip to the bottom of the cave together. Bill landed right on top of the bear.

The smoke from the lighted torches was very bad, so the men went back to the top until the smoke cleared. It took two hours to get the bear, which was a very large one, weighing close to 700 pounds, out of the cave.

Another time, on Spring Creek, Bill Wells, Nic Coalson, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Barclay treed a bear in a cave about six feet deep. Nic thought it was a good idea to throw one of the dogs into the cave, and then, when the bear chased the dog out of the cave, the men would have a chance to

kill it. The bear killed the dog, however, before he had time to get out of the hole. Barclay then volunteered to get the dog out. This was an unfortunate thing to do, too, because the bear tore most of his clothing off. They tried other ways to get the bear out, including blasting, but with no results. By this time, a good crowd had begun to gather at the cave. The men made torches of fat pine, but no one would volunteer to go in after the bear. Finally, Bill decided to go in alone. The cave was very narrow and, about thirty feet from the entrance, divided into two passages. Bill followed the main part of the cave about 100 feet farther. The smoke got so bad that he had to come out for air. By this time, small boys like Ocie Pope and John Blalack volunteered to go in. Sam Raney, who had just arrived, said it was a shame to let little boys go into the cave when there were so many men present. "All right," said one old hunter, McKagin by name, "I'll go." Bill and he went in. They met the bear coming out in a rage. McKagin was on the side next to the bear. Bill was carrying the gun, so they exchanged places. The bear reached out and struck out the light with his paw. Then they went on back about forty feet farther and heard the bear coming again. McKagin fired right by Bill's ear, which injured his eardrum for life. The explosion left the cave in darkness. They struck a match and saw the bear still struggling. McKagin then shot him dead with another shot.

Sam Raney and Bill Collins went in and pulled the bear out with a rope.

Sam Raney had another experience with a bear while he was living on South Spring Creek. He recalls that, one day while he and his family were at the dinner table, they heard a pig squeal about half a mile up the creek. Tee Goodman and Sam got their guns and a butcher knife and started out. When they got to the place, the bear had the hog down in a thicket. The bear stood up on his hind legs when he saw the men approaching, and Sam shot him, breaking his neck. Sam says his wife saved the hog, even though it was badly mangled about the neck. He says that a bear never kills outright, but that he eats the animal while it is still alive and squealing.

Another run that Sam made, on Spring Creek, came a short time later. Sam knew where a bear ranged, so he told Frank Weaver about it. Frank came over and they set out to hunt the bear. They jumped him, and, after the dogs had

chased him over several mountains, they ran him into a hole that went straight down four feet, which then opened into a cave. Sam decided to go in and kill him, so he laid his gun down by the side of the hole and let himself down. He had a torch in one hand and was reaching for his gun when he saw the bear coming. As the bear made for the torch, Sam shot him dead just as he slapped out the light. He fell back into the hole and they had a time getting him out and fleecing him. One horse couldn't carry him. Mrs. Raney got about ten gallons of oil from the fat.

On another occasion, Sam and Ote Coalson went to the head of Cedar Creek, where they jumped a bear they had chased out of Horseshoe Bend. From there, they ran him down Spring Creek, where they put him in a cave near where Tom Beck's home now stands. They stopped up the hole, and went down and told Mr. Jackson and Mr. Balke about him. They then went back and set gun traps for him. Balke tried to go in, but when the bear would whistle, Balke would skin his head trying to get out. They worked for some time trying to get him out, but were unable to budge him. They sent to Military Flat for a company of soldiers that were camped there. They said that the soldiers were plentiful, but when they started to go into the cave, they too would skin their heads when the bear would slap his paw on the ground and whistle.

The bear stayed in the cave about five weeks. Finally Sam and one of his neighbors, Mr. McKagin by name, went in and killed the bear. They tied two stake ropes together and went back after the bear. The opening looked too small for the bear to go through, but somehow he had gotten through, and somehow he must be gotten out again. They tied the rope around his under-jaw, and Sam got behind to push, while the men outside began to pull. Finally, when they got the bear to the tight place, the rope broke. They could neither push the bear back nor push him forward. So there Sam was in the cave with the opening stopped up. The men outside kept pulling until they got the bear through. It took five or six men to put the bear on the horse. The horse lay down twice before they got to the mouth of Spring Creek. The bear weighed about 400 pounds, and rendered out ten gallons of fat.

A new postmaster was appointed for the town of Barksdale in 1883. James M. Neal, the town's first postmaster,

resigned in 1883, and Thomas D. Jones was appointed to take his place.

John Hill, a brother to Jim and Ed, was one of the Canyon's first mail carriers. He carried the mail twice a week on horseback from Montell to Vance. Mr. Hill rode a little pony, called "Pacer," on his runs. While carrying the mail between Montell and Vance, Mr. Hill had several encounters with the Indians. He was a crippled man, but was able to ride a horse and to work cattle.

Mrs. Viny Wells was still postmistress at Vance in 1883, and the post office was located in the Will Terry store at Terry Flat below Vance.

Not only were new settlers coming into the country in 1883, but new babies were arriving, as well. The Sam Grants announced the arrival of a baby boy on their ranch below Barksdale, on August 14, 1883. His name was James (Jim).

Grandma Cromeans, with her four boys, George, Jack, Tom, and Jim, arrived in the Canyon in 1883, from Coryell County. Grandpa Cromeans and Jim didn't like the country, so they went back to Coryell, but Mrs. Cromeans and the other three boys stayed and located on the places on the Dry Creek prong of the river. Tom bought the land on the Nueces that is now in the Robert Ray ranch, between Barksdale and Vance. Grandma Cromeans and George took up a claim at the mouth of the Dry Creek, and Jack bought a little place below the headwaters of Dry Creek. Old Man Hazelwood had a place there, and he alternated his time between farming and preaching.

Grandma Weaver, Aunt Jane's (Mrs. George Cromeans) mother, came to the country with the Cromeans. She was the third person to be buried in the Barksdale cemetery.

The Ben Casey family moved to the Nueces Canyon from Fredericksburg in Gillespie County. Mr. Casey was a veteran of the Civil War, having fought on the side of the Confederacy in that struggle. The Caseys settled on the Nueces above Barksdale, on a place that remained in the hands of the family for more than fifty years. The Casey place joined the Cromeans' pre-emption on the north.

In the meantime, other families were moving in and taking up homesteads around Barksdale. C. H. Kirchner came from Bee County with his wife and seven children. Most of the Kirchner boys and girls were grown, and W. B. (Bill) had married in Bee County and had several children when he

moved to Barksdale. These people moved in horse-drawn wagons and drove their stock, which consisted of cattle and horses, through at the same time. C. H. Kirchner took up a league of land west of Barksdale, and settled his family at Bull Springs on the Nueces.

The Weaver family came in with the Kirchners and settled on Lost Creek in the western part of the county.

Will, Sam and Bart Gorman, Hugh and Vince Holt, and Tobe O'Neal came into the country together. They came from Mason County and were ranch people, specializing in the breeding of fine race horses. They settled in and around Barksdale and were, for a number of years, very active in the affairs of the town. Bart Gorman built one of Barksdale's first saloons on the spot where the Alfred Nelson family afterward lived for many years. Bart Gorman also had a small ranch on Miller Creek, southwest of Barksdale. It was there he raised and trained his race horses. At one time, he owned the tract of land west of Barksdale as far as Pulliam Creek, and the place was known for a number of years as the Gorman pasture.

Will and Bart Gorman had a sister named May who was married to Tobe O'Neal.

Many of the community dances were held in the Gorman house. It was in the Gorman saloon that John Freeman was fatally wounded. He and one of the Gorman men were struggling for the possession of a gun, and Freeman was shot during the scuffle. He contracted pneumonia sometime later as a result of the wound, and died. Mr. Freeman, according to the old-timers, was the first person to be buried in the Barksdale cemetery.

The Joe Beck family came to Edwards County in 1883 from Bastrop County, and settled near Barksdale. Mr. Beck, on his arrival, bought a strip of land from J. C. Blalack, extending from the Nueces on the east to Pulliam on the west. J. C. Blalack had paid fifty cents an acre for about a league of this land, known as the Felix Taylor survey, some years before, parts of which he sold to Ira Wheat, the Stieber family, and Joe Beck.

Mr. Beck had come West in 1881, looking for a place to locate. His health was not too good, and he was looking for a healthful climate and a place where he might improve his physical condition. After his return to Bastrop County, he decided to sell his plantation there on the Colorado River, and move his family to Edwards County.

The Beck headquarters ranch house was built near Pulliam Creek on the western end of the tract he had bought.

Joe Beck was originally from Mississippi. His family were slaveholders in Mississippi, and when they moved to Bastrop County they bought a plantation there on the Colorado River. They sold this farm when they moved to Edwards County.

Mrs. Joe Beck recalls a time when, shortly after their arrival in Edwards County, a party of twenty-two Rangers under the command of Captain Jones was camped near the Beck ranch at the Dixie Ranger station. The settlers were still fearful of a repetition of the Coalson Massacre of 1879.

Most of the Canyon settlements had schools in 1883. Miss Margaret Clark was teaching the Montell School, and Miss Annie Ramsey taught the little school on Dry Creek that year. The children of the Ben Casey, the Math Taylor, and the Cromeans families attended this school. Frank Casey says that the little log house where the school was taught stood on the west bank of the creek from the Tobe Edwards place. The benches were made of split logs and wooden pegs were used for legs. The children studied the old "Blue Back Speller," and McGuffey's reader, and did their writing on slates.

A school was operating on Pulliam near the George Taylor place, taught by a man named Banforth. The John Reagan children and the George Taylor children attended this school. The Raney, the Webbs, the Winans, and the Coalsons sent their children to a school below the Bud Pullen place.

The Gorman and the Holt families were raisers of fine race horses. They brought with them into the country some very good animals, and for several years after their arrival had some of the fastest race horses in the country. Old man Stillwell, father of Travis and Dee, was horse trainer for the Gormans, and came into the country with them. Dee says that his father used to train his horses out of a chute. If he was unable to hit the horse with a buggy whip as he came from the chute, he knew that he had the prospect for a good race horse.

The first race track in the Barksdale vicinity was located on the Grantland place. It was there that the race horse owners of the Canyon came to match their favorite animals. Zac Eppler says that almost every ranchman in the country, back in those days, had a horse that he thought was pretty

fast, and there were a few in the country that were very good. The Thurmans at Kickapoo Springs, W. B. Kirchner of Barksdale, the Pannells and the Parkersons at Vance, all had fast horses.

Every year, when the people gathered together for their annual barbecues, these horse owners were sure to get together and match their horses against each other in races. Horse racing, in fact, was one of the chief forms of entertainment in that day, when other kinds of amusement were so few.

Hugh, a brother to Vince Holt, and an associate with the Gorman family in the business of raising horses, was killed by a horse in the early '80's. He was the second person to be buried in the Barksdale cemetery.

Many Canyon families living on the banks of the Nueces, and in the valleys bordering its tributaries, were soon to take advantage of the abundant water supply at their disposal in the nearby streams, and put in irrigation systems on their places to supplement the yearly rainfall. One of the first gravity flow ditches to be built in the Canyon perhaps was the one built by Math Taylor on Dry Creek in 1883. Many others were built later on, and soon most of the river farms had plenty of water to irrigate their cornfields and their truck patches.

In the year 1883, members of the Blanchett family undertook to put under irrigation a large body of land about two miles below Barksdale on the west bank of the Nueces River. The water was taken from the big spring under the hill at Barksdale, and the ditch was built along the bluff side of the river and came out on top of the bank a considerable distance below town. This ditch did not prove to be satisfactory, as so much water was lost through the porous walls of the ditch before it reached the fields. The project was soon abandoned. Traces of the old ditch can still be seen.

Many of the early Canyon people came from cotton-producing areas. These people soon saw in cotton a source of cash income, which, in the early days, was hard to obtain. People were beginning to find the Canyon country, with its broad valley around the town of Barksdale, a little rough for the raising of cattle on a large scale. Thus they were forced to look for other sources of income. Cotton seemed a likely possibility.

John L. Nix, who was from a cotton-producing country himself, agreed with the people that cotton might do well

in the area, and began to make plans to bring in ginning machinery and put up a cotton gin. It was several months later that all the arrangements were completed and the machinery ready to be installed in the gin building.

Corn was a staple food crop for the early settlers. The corn had to be ground before it could be used for bread, and the nearest mill was at Leakey or Uvalde, which was too far to go in those horse-and-buggy days to have corn made into meal. Jack Cromeans, who had recently moved to a place near the headsprings of Dry Creek, conceived the idea of putting up a gristmill, and operating it with water power from the stream that flowed near his house. He soon procured the necessary machinery, and constructed a crude water wheel from timber and lumber that he was able to assemble from over the neighborhood. He built a dam across the creek some distance above the house, and brought the water down to the millsite by means of a ditch he had dug. He raised the water to the required height with a flume which carried the water to the top of the wheel, where it flowed into buckets with which the wheel was equipped. As the buckets were filled, the weight of the water set the wheel in motion, and as long as the flow of water continued, the wheel would turn around; the wheel being geared by means of belts and pulleys to the mill machinery, the power was thus transferred and made to turn the two huge millstones. This was economical power, but the machinery had the disadvantage of being slow because, in those days, the pioneer people had not learned much about gear ratios and were unfamiliar with the techniques used in stepping up speeds by means of gears.

People soon began to come from all over the country to this mill to have their corn ground. The Cromeans' mill became a meeting place where friends and neighbors would meet to exchange the current bits of gossip. Mrs. Frank Casey relates that Uncle Jack used to sit up half the night to finish grinding out the corn that was brought in that day. Dennis Pope says his father used to send him on horseback to this mill with a sack of corn to be ground and that, because of the distance, he would sometimes have to stay all night and camp at the Jack Cromeans place. Bill Reagan says he made many a trip to this mill with corn, and a member of the Beck family recalls that Mr. Beck used to send his wheat there to be ground into graham flour.

The year 1883 must have been a pretty hard year in the

Canyon, for Sam Raney says that he had to quit farming that year and seek employment. His crop was bad, so he rigged up a team out of two of his big steers, putting them on the tongue of the wagon. Some road building work was going on in the neighborhood, and Sam got a job driving a scraper. Mrs. Raney and her sister, Belle, had the job of cooking for the twenty men in the road-building crew. Mr. Raney says that they stayed on this job ninety days, and the womenfolk had to do all the cooking out in the hot sun.

John Paul Jones moved to Edwards County in 1884 from Goliad County and settled on the river four miles above Barksdale on the Vance road. He bought a home in Barksdale from Bub McClellan, and operated a blacksmith shop there in connection with his ranch business. His children attended the Barksdale school.

Paul Jones and Dan Crier had a sheep ranch, north of Barksdale, which they operated as a partnership. Pleas Jones, a son of Paul Jones, tells that his father was summoned on the court once, and when he got back he found that somebody had rounded up 300 head of his sheep and left the country with them. He got the Rangers and watched a certain place several days but could find no trace of the missing sheep. He came back home, and Bill Kirchner told him that he had noticed two or three stray sheep in his flock. The thieves had taken the sheep to the nearest railroad station, which was at Spofford, and shipped them. The sheep were never recovered.

It was in 1884 that a Barksdale citizen killed George Crane. There was a big dance going on in Barksdale the night of the killing. A big crowd had gathered at the Gorman place; among the guests were some members of the John Pope family. Dennis Pope recalls that a relative of his was there and was dancing when the affray began. Dennis says that Crane was a dashing sort of fellow and always wanted to dance every set that was called. Crane had left his hat on a bench to dance a square that was being called. A party came along and sat down on the bench, crushing the hat that Crane had put there. An argument ensued and, in the fight that followed, Crane was stabbed. Old-timers say that the man had found the knife he used in the fight sometime before at the location of an old Ranger camp near Barksdale.

Travis Stillwell says that his father and mother and his Aunt Julia Schultz were all at that dance, and that Mac Weaver played for the dance.

In 1884, the Hart family was living on Pulliam. Among the boys in the family were Monty, John and Charley. Monty used to call for the dances over the country. He was a little fellow with a good calling voice, and Mrs. Ethel Pope remembers that he used to make the couples step quite lively with his calling.

John A. Barnes moved to Barksdale in 1884. He built a house on a lot just north of the Gorman saloon, and put up a little store on one corner of the lot. John A. Barnes married one of the Sweeten girls.

The Canyon country was hit by a mild drought in 1884, and among those who moved their livestock was Joe Beck, who drove a bunch of his cattle to the Divide country for winter pasture. Mrs. Beck taught school one year while her family was in that country.

Mrs. Frank Casey remembers that her family was a family of shouting Methodists. Old Bro. Uzzell, a stepgrandfather to Jim Rhodes, used to come to Dry Creek and preach in a little schoolhouse there. Sometimes he would preach in the people's homes. Mrs. Casey remembers that Bro. LePard was another early Canyon preacher.

Tom Cromeans was an old bachelor, known far and wide for his friendliness and hospitality. Neighbors or travelers calling at his home were never allowed to leave until they had either eaten a meal or had stayed all night. Uncle Tom just wouldn't let them go by his place without stopping. One time when Mrs. Frank Casey, his niece, was staying all night there, a Church of Christ preacher came by and stopped for the night. Uncle Tom insisted that they have preaching that night, even though there were only three people present.

Frank Hunter taught the school on Dry Creek in 1884. The Montell children attended a school on the old camp meeting grounds. Children attending this school were the Luces, the Baylors, the Clarks, the Colemans, the Stockleys, and the Wells'. Cebe DeGaux taught the Pulliam School, and the Joe Roberts children, the Potters, the Dave Burlesons, the Greens, the Watkins' and the Wells' all went to the little school at Vance, by the cemetery. A lumber schoolhouse had been built in Barksdale, and the children living in Barksdale and in the surrounding neighborhood attended school there.

The trip made by the John Newman family in 1884 from the Panhandle to Edwards County is one of the most

colorful stories that has been told of the early frontier people. This family was moving down from the Panhandle with the Devil's River country as its final destination. They came by way of Paint Rock, coming across country to the head of the Nueces, and making their first stop on the Hackberry prong of the river.

The Newman family had lived near Breckenridge in Stevens County, and moved from there to the edge of the Panhandle, before coming to Edwards County.

In 1884, John Newman, his wife and six children, left King County with 2000 head of cattle and 400 horses. There were twelve or fifteen cowboys to help in handling the cattle and the horses. Mrs. Dan Colwell, who was then five years old, recalls many of the incidents of the journey. They had their household goods in a four-ox wagon, and the family rode in a wagon drawn by two horses. When they reached the Brazos River, they camped about one mile from its bank. The men started early next morning with the herd, and crossed the river. Mr. Newman and some of the men returned to get the wagons, but in the meantime a fifteen-foot rise came down the river. They stayed there three days, Mr. Newman and his family on one side, and most of the cowboys with the herd on the other. The third day, Mr. Newman and the men who had come back with him after the wagons, built a raft out of logs from trees they cut along the river bank. They notched the ends of the logs and tied them together with ropes. Mr. Newman called across to the men on the other side, who were without food, to kill a beef. The wagons were then loaded on the raft, and the trip across the stream was begun. Mr. Newman and one driver swam on one side of the raft, and Mr. Knox, the cook, swam on the other. They had sticks in their hands to keep the oxen from turning up or down the stream. The men on the other side stood ready for emergencies, but the crossing was made without mishap. Mr. Newman then left the herd in charge of Mr. Castleman, and went ahead with his family to find a place in some town where he could leave his family until he could find a location for his stock on Devil's River.

The family camped one night in Concho County near Paint Rock. A snowstorm came up while they were there, and Ben Newman, one of the little boys, fell into the fire and burned himself seriously. The family then had to go back into Paint Rock, where Mr. Newman bought a house and four lots in order to get a place to stop. Mr. Newman

then went back to meet the herd. He brought the cattle and the horses on to Hackberry, where he put them in with the Colwell herd. He left his family in Paint Rock until the following spring, at which time Mrs. Newman and the children joined Mr. Newman at Hackberry. The Rose family came with the Newmans from Paint Rock to the Canyon country.

Mr. Newman bought a lease near the spot where the Hackberry store was once located. He then bought the place at the mouth of George Perkins Hollow from a Mrs. Stoner. He sold this place later to Abe Holmes. The Odle family was living on Hackberry at the time, and several of the Odle boys worked for Mr. Newman. John was the oldest of the Odle children. Among the others were Lizzie, who married John Stroops, Nannie, Alvin, Will Jim, and Bud. Another boy was called Monk by his family and the neighbors. Mrs. Odle was dead and the children were all about grown. Jim was killed while working for Mr. Newman. He was trying to catch a horse that was trailing a rope. As he leaned over in the saddle to catch the rope, the mare's foot hit the line. She was running at full speed and turned a complete somersault, killing Jim almost instantly.

The first school the Newman children attended on Hackberry was a private school taught by an Englishman by the name of Crawley. The fellow was a wanderer passing through the country. Mr. Newman picked him up, and finding out that he was an educated man, hired him to teach his children. The Ammon and Riley Billings families sent their children to this same school. John Billings, and the Stockman family who lived on East prong, also patronized this school.

Some of the neighbors to the Newmans on Hackberry were the Welchs, the Merritts, the Crooms, the Hext families, the Colwells, the Brunsons, and the Gray boys.

The year after the Crawley school, a Mr. Patterson taught on Hackberry. Dan and Warren Colwell attended this school. The Chisums and the Haynes', who lived on East prong, sent their children there.

Mrs. Colwell says she saw Dan Colwell for the first time when she was six years old. Their paths were destined to cross again years later, but that is another part of our story.

For their immediate needs, the Canyon people did their trading locally, but nearly all the ranch people made at least two trips a year, either to Uvalde or to Kerrville, for the bulk of their supplies. Schwartz Company in Uvalde, and Schrein-

er Company in Kerrville, were the two principal trading posts. The ranchmen would carry their produce, wool, mohair, pecans and honey to these places, and sell or exchange it for the things they needed at home on the ranch.

The trips to these trading centers were always interesting experiences. If weather conditions were good, and the roads were dry, the people usually made the trip in five days — two days down and three days back. In rainy weather, it would sometimes take a week or ten days.

Often the freighter would load his wagons in the morning before he started his return trip, and start his teams that afternoon in time to reach the Seven Mile Hill by nightfall. This place was one of the old campgrounds, and many are the tales that were spun around the campfires by the old-time freighters as they rested their teams and prepared for the night under the shadow of Seven Mile Hill.

There were certain places along the route followed by the freight wagons that were always dreaded by the freighter, either on account of some steep grade on the road, or for some bad stretch of country that, in times of rainy weather, became miry bog holes for the wagons. One such place was Fourteen Mile Hill. At this place, the road wound its way up a steep grade for a considerable distance, and sometimes, if extra heavily loaded, the freighter would have to double his teams to be able to pull this grade.

The White Cotton Bottom was another place always dreaded by the freighter when the road was muddy. Many times, wagons would bog to their hubs in this swampy stretch of road.

Most of the old professional freighters carried a trail wagon, and sometimes used five or six teams of horses or mules hitched in twos or threes to the wagon. For convenience in popping the long bull whip, the freighter often rode one of the horses nearest the wagons.

Haze Taylor recalls that the first trip he made to Uvalde was with Joe Cross and Frank Kinsey, neighbors to the Taylors. Frank lived at the Tobe Edwards place and Joe lived with the Taylor family. On this trip they were carrying a load of cedar posts to Uvalde, and were planning to bring back a load of supplies. Haze says they camped five miles north of Uvalde the second night so they could watch the train pass. Henry and Haze sat up two-thirds of the night watching for the train. They saw the train, all right, and went in the next morning and sold their posts.

Dennis Pope tells of a trip he made on horseback to Uvalde with his father to sell a load of pecans. When they reached Fourteen Mile Hill at the mouth of the canyon, the team got scared at some deer and threw Mr. Pope off the wagon, skinning his face very badly. They made camp that night about a mile below the spot where the team had become frightened. Such were the experiences of the old freighters.

First school taught on Pulliam, according to A. P. Allison, who attended the school, was taught by W. P. Word from Tennessee, who, they said, was visiting the country. The schoolhouse was located just east of the present John Leonard place. Mr. Allison says that Mr. Word was a fine teacher, but stayed only one year and disappeared from the country. Will, John, and Sam Sattathite, Fannie and George Epps, John and Paul Nixon, Will and Mary Jane Lemon, attended this school, in the summer of 1884.

Some of the earliest deeds to be recorded in Edwards County were for land around the Barksdale and Vance settlements. It is interesting to scan some of these old recordings. For instance, on November 9, 1884, John Nelson deeded to Frank Freeman lots in Barksdale. T. W. Uzzell and J. F. Rhodes deeded W. M. Sanford 2519 acres of land for a consideration of \$750. The land was conveyed previously by T. J. Ramsey to T. W. Uzzell. In March, 1884, John Nelson conveyed to J. L. Nix 132 acres. In March, 1884, John Nelson conveyed to J. L. Nix lots in Barksdale. In March, 1884, John Nelson conveyed to Robert K. Kernoodle lots in Barksdale. In January, 1884, G. P. Cowan conveyed to Francis Winans the C. F. Booth pre-emption, three miles above Vance, for \$600. In August, 1884, J. F. Rhodes was the highest bidder on a tract of land of Asa Pullen sold at sheriff's auction. In November, 1883, Thomas Max Balke conveyed to Herman Fleischer 320 acres on Pulliam Creek for a consideration of \$1000.

In September, 1884, C. H. Kirchner sold to John Clark 500 acres on Spring Creek for \$750. On September 30, 1884, Henry Wells conveyed to the Vance School trustees certain lots in Vance known as the Bullhead Schoolhouse. In September, 1884, I. F. Winans conveyed to W. H. Taylor 160 acres out of the C. F. Booth pre-emption.

In April, 1884, M. M. Parkerson conveyed to John F. Parkerson 160 acres for a consideration of \$600. In October, 1884, Henry Wells conveyed to D. W. Burleson lots in Vance.

In July, 1884, W. N. Sanford conveyed to C. A. Russell 150 acres. In July, 1884, J. C. Comer conveyed to W. M. Sanford 150 acres for \$350. In November, 1884, John Crow sold to Mrs. L. C. Jackson 160 acres for \$250. In November, 1884, J. F. Parkerson conveyed to Pernicia Cunningham lots in Vance for \$450.

In 1884, Asael W. Ackerly built a blacksmith shop in Barksdale. This building was located just north of the Gorman house.

Robert K. Kernoodle moved to Barksdale and put up a store there in 1884.

In 1884, Herman Fleischer, a soldier stationed at Fort Clark, came to Barksdale and married one of the C. H. Kirchner girls. He built a home in Barksdale, and bought the Balke ranch on Pulliam. Mrs. Fleischer had been married to a Mr. Clark before her marriage to Mr. Fleischer, and to this union one child was born. This child, John Clark, later married Katie Long of Brackettville. The Clarks settled in 1884 on the W. B. Kirchner ranch on Spring Creek.

Sam Raney served for a number of years under Ira Wheat as deputy sheriff of the Barksdale precinct.

In 1884, the year after Ira Wheat was elected sheriff of Edwards County, Lon Welch worked for Mr. Wheat on the Wheat ranch east of Barksdale. Mr. Wheat's duties as sheriff required him to be either in Leahey or in other parts of the county most of the time. Lon Welch and Ira Wheat were very good friends. Ira Welch, one of the Lon Welch boys, is a namesake of Mr. Wheat. Mr. Wheat's family, when he lived on the ranch near Barksdale, consisted of a wife and five children: Neville, Gus, Ira, Jr., Zena, and Edna.

The Weavers, a pioneer family in the goat business, came to the Lost Creek country in 1884. They lived there during the time that the Jim Brown family lived in that part of the country. Mr. Weaver was married to the widow of William A. Long. Ed and Frank were two of the Weaver boys.

In front of the Weaver home was a huge spring of water that furnished all the water that was needed for the house and the stock. Other springs on the ranch supplied other stock-watering places. Mr. Weaver had cattle, horses and hogs, a very fine orchard, and fields where he raised corn and cane. In the winter, the stock would go to the mountains, and in the summer they would wander back to the lowlands. There were no fences in that area, and the ranch-

men would have the roundups, separating and branding the stock.

In 1884, the John Sweeten family moved to Edwards County from Mason and settled on Spring Creek. John Sweeten was married to Lydia Stewart, daughter of Rube Stewart.

Frank Sweeten, one of the John Sweeten children, remembers going to school taught by Nat Benton and A. J. Cox, when the Sweeten family lived on Spring Creek.

Green Lake was the site of a severe skirmish between the sheepmen and the cattlemen of the area, in 1884. Green Lake is located about three miles off the Rocksprings Junction highway and about halfway between the two towns. At that time, the W. J. Greer ranch was located near the lake, and Mr. Greer had fenced the lake into one of his pastures. The times were dry and hard, and water was going at a premium. Drifting sheepmen and cattlemen wandered through the country building foundations for many fortunes of the present period. Residents of the West did not like the fences and neither did they like the sheepmen at the time, and so they took their wire cutters and cut the fences away.

From Camp Leona on the Leona River four miles south of Uvalde, a detachment of Rangers, mounted on horses wearing big shoes, moved to the Green Lake waterhole, near which Mr. Greer, then a young cattleman, had his home. They left camp on the evening of July 27, 1884, and arrived at the Greer brothers' ranch at midnight, July 28. They had traveled a distance of 125 miles, crossing the divide from the Nueces to the Llano River, going over new territory and forsaking the road so that the big footprints of the Rangers' horses could not be seen. The horses were hitched in a cedar brake about two miles from the Greer home, and the Rangers waited for the cattlemen and fence cutters to come. Today one of the trespassers lies buried near the old lake. He lies beside a man who had also been killed in a shooting.

After the Rangers had put away their horses, they drew out their cooking utensils, consisting of a frying pan, oven, and coffee pot which they had carried on a pack mule, and spent the rest of the night in a little cabin overlooking the lake. About 250 yards from the lower end of the lake, the cow and horse rustlers had established a camp. The next morning, the Greer boys rebuilt their fence, and at 10

o'clock the cattlemen appeared, taking about fifty head of cattle through the fence to the water. This was no serious violation of the law, but fence cutting was a felony. The Rangers sat down to see if this violation would occur. One of the Greer ranchhands stepped out to protest the trespassing, but he was warned away at the mouth of a gun and he returned.

At midafternoon, the same cattlemen appeared from the south with another herd of cattle and cut the fence, driving the stock into the lake to drink. The Rangers' ammunition had been shortened by the promiscuous shooting of rattlesnakes on the Divide the day before, and the Rangers were forced to be cautious.

The officers were stationed in two groups, one of them in a live oak thicket, and the other so as to train their rifles on a stone wall, behind which, it was felt, the intruders would do their fighting.

The lone Ranger in the live oak clump called on the men to surrender, but they replied with the advice to go to an unhealthy region where lost souls gnash their teeth. With the reply came a bullet that shot the Ranger under the right arm. For several minutes, the Ranger in the thicket and the men behind the rock wall fired at each other, the cattlemen firing through apertures in the wall, and the Ranger shooting at them when they put their heads over the protecting position.

The Ranger dropped to the ground to a sitting position to rest his gun on his knee and shot a long-range shot, but a bullet plowed up the ground in front of him and filled his eyes with dirt. Soon, however, the other Rangers had taken positions which enabled them to flank the trespassers. One of the Rangers, W. W. Baker, received a slight wound, putting him out of commission, while another's gun jammed as he tried to put a .45 caliber shell in a .44 Winchester. Soon, however, the cattlemen were making a run for cooler and safer quarters, trying to get to their horses nearby.

Three of the four men made their escape, while a fourth fell with a bullet through his breast and one through his head, to say nothing of three through his hat. By this time, the Rangers' ammunition was low and they did not pursue the fleeing men. And too, their horses were 200 yards away. W. W. Baker was taken to the Greer home, where Mrs. Greer nursed him to recovery. In the meantime, one of the fleeing men, seeing that one of their group had fallen, came

back to retrieve his gun and ammunition, but one of the defenders of the lake saw the man and fired at him after a command to halt. The man leaped high, ran into the brush, got his horse, and escaped. The dead man had a pistol loaded full, thirty cartridges in his belt, while his rifle had thirteen .44 caliber cartridges.

Joe Greer mounted his horse and rode alone to Junction to notify the officers and to get 500 rounds of ammunition, and to get an official to hold an inquest over the dead body. He made that ride on his horse, Pinto Grande, and started the return trip home just as the sun went down. Soon a Mr. Gaines and a Mr. Turner appeared saying they had seen the retreating men up the draw six miles, and that they had threatened to recruit twenty or thirty men and come back and wipe out the group at the lake. The wound of W. W. Baker, the injured Ranger, was bad, and to prevent infection, water was gathered from the lake in a tin can and the water was allowed to drain from the can through a small hole and to drip into the wound. To afford a defense against the threatened attack, several large cedar posts near the Greer house were thrown together in a sort of fortification. Into this place, the officers retired for the night. Ammunition, and a water can to cool guns that might become hot, were taken into the place where the defenders lay on their stomachs. There they entered into a compact to defend the place with their lives. The night passed without incident, and in the morning, Joe Greer came back with the ammunition and the other men. Dr. Burt, who had a son practicing medicine in Junction, said that the wound of the Ranger was not serious, and that the man would be back in the saddle again in twenty days. Ranchmen nearby gathered in to give assistance, among them M. M. Bradford, L. K. Henderson, Eaf Dragoo, J. D. Gaines, Jack Turner, and Frank Heggerman.

An officer came at two-thirty in the afternoon, and the dead man was buried by the side of William Tillery, killed there thirteen months before. Among the man's effects were a few dollars, a pocket knife, watch, a spur, a rifle, a pistol and belt, and canteen, which were turned over to Ira Wheat, sheriff of Edwards County. The man's hat was taken to company headquarters as a souvenir. The man was an escaped convict, having left Lampasas County charged with murder.

The reason that the trespassers had not returned to the scene, it was learned later, was due to the fact that a Dr.



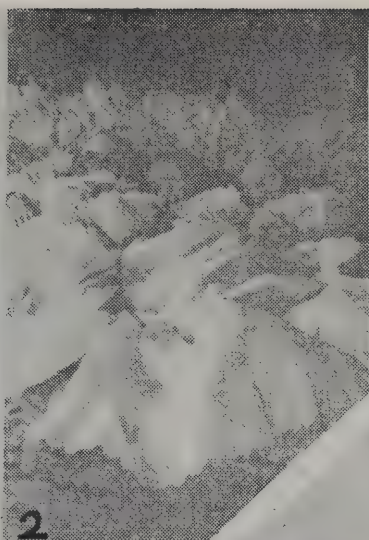
1. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Powers 2. The O. C. Pope ranch 3. Mr. and Mrs. Brunie Hutto
4. August Stendebach family 5. George and Dee Newton operated the old Green Front
Saloon in Rocksprings 6. Mr. and Mrs. Will Whittley, Joe and Lillie Whittley on horse-
back 7. The Fleischer home in Rocksprings



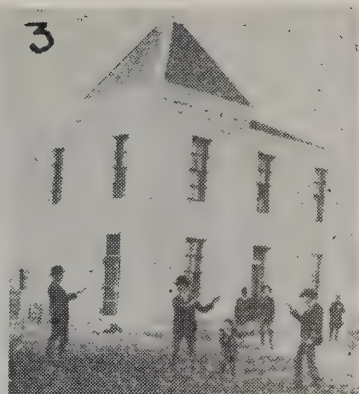
1. Freight teams, Rocksprings 2. Early Mail-hack, Mr. Clubb, carrier, Rocksprings post office 3. Franklin Wallace ranch on Pulliam. Riley Blalack on horse, Franklin Wallace, Mrs. Wallace, Hattie, Bessie, and Lillie Wallace, Granny Wallace, Dave Stewart, Obie Wallace on horse 4. Sutherland and Witt families. Front row: Minnie Bell Sutherland, Lizzie Sutherland, Florine Sutherland, Laura May Sutherland, Arthur Witt, Robert Sutherland, Sam Sutherland, John Sutherland, Tom Witt, William Sutherland. Back row: Clarence Meriwether, Louis Witt, Ray Witt, Nelson Rogers, Jim Meriwether, Tom Sutherland, Jr., Mamie Jackson, Eugene Meriwether, Perry Witt, Sam Witt, _____, Ben White, Will Sutherland, Ed Witt; 2nd row seated: _____, Tom Sutherland, Sr., Mary Sutherland; Standing: John D. Sutherland, Mrs. Ben White, _____, Mrs. W. D. Sutherland, Mrs. Ed Witt, Mr. Jim Meriwether, Fannie Meriwether, Mrs. Tom Sutherland, _____, Mrs. James Meriwether, _____ 5. The J. L. Hobbs family 6. Ed Wood, Hugh Wood, Grandma Wallace, and Mrs. Wood, at Pulliam Creek ranch 7. Jess Gilmer freight wagons, Rocksprings



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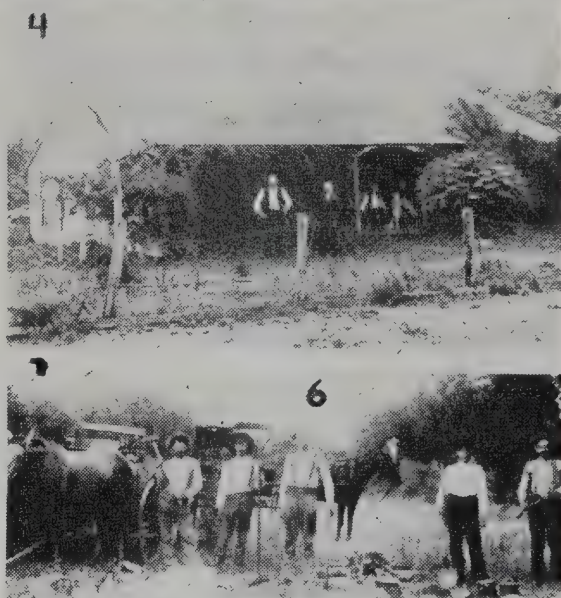
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1. The Ed Hill family: Maud, Jack, Terry, Edna, John, and Mamie 2. The S. A. Guthrie triplets: Lockley, Frank, Cebia 3. Rocksprings Courthouse, 1896 4. Early scene in Barksdale 5. Lum Thompson on trail drive 6. Edwards County Courthouse, Rocksprings 7. The Dow Perkins family 8. Joe Wood ranch near Rocksprings



1. The George Taylor family: John, Helen, Babe, Jim, Leb, George Wood, George Taylor, Lottie in lap, Albert, Will, Mrs. George Taylor, Pearl 2. John Sweeten freight team, Rocksprings 3. The John Perkins family. 1st row: John Perkins, Albert Perkins, Mrs. John Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Perkins, and Fannie 2nd row: Frank Perkins, George Perkins, Mrs. Will Dalton 4. The Bud Yost home, Bullhead. Mr. and Mrs. Bud Yost, Captain Wallace, and Dr. Pannell 5. New Creek hunters: John Cox, Henry Taylor, Ira Wood, Rat Taylor, Haze Taylor 6. Pulliam road crew. Franklin and Steven Wallace on left 7. One of Rocksprings' first hotels, the G. M. Carson residence, built by John Ralston 8. Jim Pope ranch on Pulliam

Coleman, then ranching on the North Llano, advised the men not to go back.

Mrs. Maggie Wallace recalls a time when Mr. Wheat was looking for a man-on-the-dodge, and came to the Wallace place to stay all night and to ask about all who had been there and who had been seen. Mr. Hamrick had eaten dinner with the Burrs that day. It was the first time the Burr children had ever seen him, and his name sounded very odd to them. Grandpa Burr had gone to Gillespie County and had brought back a brick to show that they had built a new courthouse there. Mrs. Wallace got the brick and took it into the house, and by then Grandpa Burr had forgotten the man's name, of course. Maggie ran into the kitchen, came back, and said she knew what the man's name was. "What was it, Maggie?" Mr. Wheat said. Maggie replied, "Mr. Brickham." Mr. Wheat, of course, knew who Maggie meant. They all laughed and Maggie cried. Mr. Wheat said, no, that was not the man he came after.

In 1885, J. R. (Bob) Sweeten laid out the town of Barksdale. The original map of the town was drawn up by J. C. Caldwell of Cotulla, Texas. The town, including forty-two blocks, was built around a public square, which site is now the location of the Barksdale School.

It was either at the time that the town of Barksdale was being laid out, or shortly afterward, that the promoters of the town experienced difficulty in securing all the land they thought necessary for the future expansion of the town. The record of what transpired is rather incomplete, but an effort was made on the part of some of the town's citizens to move the town farther down the river on some property of J. F. Rhodes. The name of the new town was to be Rhodes City. Two wells were dug on the proposed townsite, but the people were unable to get water sufficient for a town's needs. The project collapsed soon after that, and the people began to concentrate their efforts in building the town they had already started.

The town of Barksdale was laid off on a part of the Felix Taylor survey. J. C. Blalack, several years before, had purchased a part of this league from the state for fifty cents an acre. In 1885, part of this survey had passed into the hands of the Butler family, who did not live on the land, but subsequently sold part of the land to people who were in the market for lots and grazing land. The Barksdale townsite is a part of the original Butler holdings.

When Sam Raney was living on Spring Creek, and after Robert and Scuff were born, Major Conley had a bunch of goats on the head of the creek, which the panthers were killing quite often. Major Conley had two dogs, but they were afraid of the panther. So the panther had got into the flock several times. Mr. Raney told the major to let him know when the panther came back, and to leave it alone till he got there. One night just about dark, Major Conley came upon the other side of the creek and began to holler for Sam. He was riding a little black pony mare, and said that the panther was killing his goats. Sam told the major that he would have to stay with Mrs. Raney while he (Sam) was gone to kill the panther, since Mrs. Raney was afraid to stay alone.

The major told Sam that he would have to go right up the creek in running water all the way, and to watch out for holes in the creek bed. When Sam got to the camp, the dogs were raving, and the panther was in the pen with a goat he had killed. Sam set his dogs on the panther, and away they went over the fence and up the creek, out of the creek and over several mountains before they finally treed the panther under a bluff in a huge pine tree. Sam walked his way in the rough country to the dogs; it was pretty hard going. He had a lantern in one hand and a gun in the other. When he got close enough, he could see the panther looking down at him. He had to hold the lantern in one hand in order to see, and the gun in the other, but he dropped the panther with a dead shot. The panther fell out of the tree and rolled down the hill into the creek. The dogs went right on down with him and Sam climbed down to get the mare. When he brought the mare up, he put the panther up on a rock and led the mare up beside it. Sam finally got the panther on her and tied it good. The mare turned her head and when she smelled the panther, she began to rear and pitch. She fell down and Sam had to cut the rope to let her up.

The cat was nine feet from tip to tip. Sam skinned him and carried the hide back to the major. He was thankful that the panther had been killed and also thankful for the hide. When the major started home, he couldn't make his mare go past the place where the panther had been killed, so had to go over the mountains and around to his camp.

Mr. Raney recalls another experience with a panther. One day he heard a disturbance among the livestock. Mrs. Raney and Belle, her sister, were in the kitchen. Suddenly

the cows and calves began to bellow and bawl. The hogs began to get restless, the dogs began to bark and the children to cry. When the noise abated, Sam got his gun and took his dogs around the cow lot where the dogs struck the trail. They followed the trail up Ratliff Creek, across the mountains, and brought it back to Coon Hollow, where they treed the panther. Sam shot it twice before it fell to the ground. Then it almost killed one of the dogs before Sam put an end to it with another shot. The panther was nine feet long from tip to tip.

On May 13, 1885, four leagues of land in Hockley County was sold by authorization of the Edwards County Commissioners Court to B. Oppenheimer for \$16,000. This was Edwards County's allotment of school land authorized by the Texas constitution, consisting of five surveys, numbers 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, which is approximately 17,000 acres. This land lies just south of Levelland, Texas, and is within the Slaughter oil fields, a fabulously rich area in oil. The amount \$16,000 was to be paid in twenty years. Oppenheimer later sold the land to Peacock Brothers and W. V. Johnson, subject to the lien. Payments on the note were not met, and on November 11, 1895, the Edwards County Commissioners Court repossessed the land by ordering the surrender of the note, and the land reverted back to Edwards County.

In 1885, machinery for the Nix cotton gin arrived and Mr. Nix soon had men at work putting up a building to house the compress. The building Mr. Nix put up was a two-story affair built on the side of a hill with the floor of the upper story opening out on top of the hill. Part of the lower floor occupied an excavation in the side of the hill, and Mr. Nix installed a gristmill there. The power to turn the machinery was furnished by a huge steam boiler that was located outside the building on the east side of the two-story structure.

The wagons used to stop on the hill at the entrance of the upper story to unload their cotton. There was another entrance to the lower compartment where people unloaded their corn to be ground. It was quite an expensive setup, and at the time it was built, was considered a very modern piece of equipment.

One of the most interesting things about the old mill was the steam whistle, which sounded off every workday promptly at twelve o'clock. The writer remembers that, when he was a very small boy, long years after the building

was put up, his folks used to explain to him that the whistle's noise was made by the engine. The writer confused the word "engine" with the word "Indian," and after that, whenever he would hear the whistle blow, he would think of the poor Indian who was making such a horrible noise there in that fiery furnace.

In 1885, Tobe O'Neal was living on South Spring Creek and was expecting an addition to his family momentarily. The moment arrived somewhat unexpectedly, as was often the case in those days, and Tobe rushed down the creek to a neighbor's house for help. Grandma Pope happened to be the nearest midwife in the neighborhood, but the Pope home was some distance from the O'Neal ranch. It was there that Tobe went, leaving Mr. Stillwell at the house with his wife to stand by until he returned. The baby was born while Tobe was gone. Mr. Stillwell, who was somewhat of a doctor himself, helped with the delivery of the child.

Mrs. Ethel Pope says that her mother got busy the next day and put out the family wash for the O'Neals. After Mrs. Green had finished hanging out the last piece, the line broke and the whole business fell to the ground.

Tobe O'Neal was a big Irishman with a long handlebar mustache, and was much older than his wife. He had a little Negro girl who worked for him.

Ira Wheat was elected for his second term as sheriff of Edwards County in November, 1884. He had many calls from over the county to look for stock thieves, to make arrests, and to keep law and order in the county. One day, as he was coming through Vance, he stopped there for a short time and ran into Lon Bass on the streets. Bass challenged him to take off his gun, telling him that he would give him a good beating if he would take off his gun. Wheat accepted the challenge, took off his gunbelt, and handed it to a bystander. Then the two men went to it. They fought until they were both exhausted, and then stopped to rest. They were soon at it again, and finally some of the men standing around pulled them apart and called a halt to it. Neither one was able to outdo the other.

Ira Wheat was a man of great courage—and he was sheriff in a time when courage was required. He was instrumental in keeping in control the lawless element of his time, making it possible for the law-abiding people to live in peace.

A newcomer to the Canyon, in 1885, was Bud Hatley,

who located on the old Sanford place southwest of Vance. He came in with the Reavis family, who bought a little place above Vance. The Joe Burris family moved in from Bastrop County and located above the Pannells on Bull-head. The Bud Yosts moved from Dry Creek to the Vance country.

Barksdale got a new postmaster in 1885. Robert K. Kernoodle, who was in the mercantile business with J. L. Nix, received the appointment on April 29, 1885.

In 1885, the Millard Parkerson family ran cattle on a place just below Vance. Millard, some years before, had married a Mrs. Ridgeway, a daughter of Dab Boales by Boales' first wife. This widow had three children from her first marriage, Riley, Annie and Bud. After her marriage to Mr. Parkerson, she had four children, Stella, Hattie, Clyde, and Hallie.

The old-timers say that Millard Parkerson was a man with a magnetic personality. He attracted people to him, and was a good ranchman and businessman with a tremendous amount of energy and initiative. At the peak of his activity, in the late '80's and early '90's, he had cattle roaming the hills and the flats all the way from Vance to Barksdale. He not only operated his own ranch business, but was a cattle buyer for the big cowmen in the Uvalde country. Every year, he would buy cattle in the Canyon and deliver them to the ranchmen at Uvalde.

Millard had two brothers who came to the country with him. John Parkerson operated one of the first stores in Vance. He finally quit the mercantile business and bought a little ranch between Vance and Barksdale. John married Miss Ella Alexander and had two children, Boss and Fred. Will, the other brother to Millard, lived in the Vance neighborhood and worked cattle there.

There were several grown boys in the Dave Burleson family. Josh, Hop, and Pat were three of the boys, and nearly all of them were good fiddlers. The Burleson family was related to the Buck Green family, and they say that Buck Green was one of the best fiddlers the country ever knew.

Jess Roberts recalls that when they were living on the place west of Vance, he had a little mule he used to ride into Vance through the Wells' lane. Whenever other boys happened to be in this land, Jess would make the mule buck and pitch, and he says the boys would pile out over the fence on each side of the road.

Jess says Doctor Pannell was their family doctor. Pannell was a retired doctor, but practiced some after he came to the Vance community. The Joe Roberts family had seven children: Sallie, Polly, Mattie, Alice, Minnie, Maud, and Jess, and another boy who died in infancy.

Jess remembers that he used to work cattle for Millard Parkerson. One time he helped Jim Piper move 1500 steers from Joy Hollow to the old Tom Sutherland place below Camp Wood.

Jess says that Millard Parkerson put in the farm land on the ranch near Vance where he lived. The place is now known as the Pannell ranch.

Charley Pannel, a brother to Hal Pannell, used to teach dancing school in the country around Vance. Jess says that Charley's pupils soon got so they could dance as well as Charley, but they kept on coming to the school because they liked to dance so well. The fee, he goes on to say, was only 25¢.

Mrs. Ethel Pope's family used to attend this school when she was a very small girl. She remembers she used to have a little pet pig that would follow her every day to this dancing school.

Uncle Buck Green and Hal Pannell were both good fiddlers. They played for many of the dances in the Vance and Barksdale communities. Hal was also one of the callers at the square dances. The old-timers say he was an expert at both calling and fiddling.

The town of Vance was laid off in blocks and lots in the year 1884. Henry Wells, who owned the townsite, sold lots to people who were moving into the community. Among the deeds recorded in that year is one showing that Henry Wells conveyed to the Vance School trustees certain lots on which to construct a school building, and in October, 1884, he deeded to D. W. Burleson some lots on the Vance townsite.

Mrs. Sallie Reavis remembers one time that one of Marion Sanchez' children got lost over on Spring Creek. Joe Roberts and Jess went down to help hunt for the child. Soon the whole neighborhood joined in the search, and people scoured the country for days without finding the lost one. The father finally found the child dead, and Aunt Sallie says that when they picked the little fellow's body up, its head fell off. She says the family was grief-stricken for days,

and that the people of the community were deeply shocked by the tragedy.

The John Newman family moved from Hackberry to the Devil's River in 1885.

Albert Chapman recalls his first trip to Edwards County. He was just a boy of seventeen, and he and three or four other men were helping to drive 200 steers to Fort Clark for a man by the name of Hammertail Birch.

After being on the road several days, they hit an old trail on Indian Creek that led to the Kickapoo Springs. While they were eating supper one night, Joe Thurman and his three sons, Sam, Bill, and Jess, came to their camp, and invited them to visit at their home. The Thurmans had built a log house, which was the first home ever built by a white man on the West Prong of the Nueces River. (Mr. Chapman and Hattie Thurman were later married in this house.)

After they had delivered the cattle and had gone back to the Llano, Mr. Chapman, after two or three years, decided to again go to the West Prong, as it was then called.

By that time, several new settlers had moved in and built homes. Grandma Donaghe and her sons, Charles and John, and her son-in-law, Lee Parham, and his family, lived on Bluff Creek.

Mr. Hall and his sons, Tom and Bob, and their families, lived at Two Mile. Sam Thurman had built a house at Four Mile. David Tabor and his family lived at Three Mile, and Jim Barksdale at Five Mile. All of these places still go by those names. The distance was measured from Kickapoo Springs, where Joe Thurman and his oldest son, Bill, lived. Those were wild days, but Mr. Chapman liked the Kickapoo section and stayed there. Everyone owned cattle and horses. In the winter, the cattle would drift in from the north.

Tucker Campbell was head of the cattle-wrangling association. With him worked Joe Good, Harve Dodson, Tom and Bob Hall. Rangers were sent in from San Angelo, but they always went back without men or cattle. Wranglers burned out the brands on cattle and drove them into Fort Clark and sold them.

Most men, at the time, branded mavericks, but not all burned out the brands. Burning out brands was considered a skill, and was all right if you didn't get caught. In those days, one never said "buying cattle"; it was always called "buying a brand." For example, Joe Thurman ran the first

brand of BIF. Then he sold that brand, and until he died, he ran the brand ICU.

After a while, there were enough people in the settlement for them to begin to think about a school and camp meetings.

Frank and Green Justice, and their mother, Old Aunt Jane, lived at Kickapoo about two years and moved to a place which was later known as the V. A. Brown place. Al Haley, Perry Ellis, Jerry Ellis, A. J. Cox, and old Brother Silman came in with their families in the first ten years.

Sam Thurman, Frank Justice, and Bill Thurman got together to start a school. Of course, there were no funds nor trustees; but these men got Marshall Johnson and Perry Ellis to teach the children under a brush arbor. These men were the first two teachers at Kickapoo.

Old Brother Silman and Andrew Cox held meetings under the arbor. Almost everyone in the community was baptized in the headwaters of the Nueces River.

Jerry Ellis was appointed the first postmaster of the settlement. Bill Thurman got the contract to carry the mail, and he got John Donaghe to do the carrying in a two-wheeled cart, drawn by one old horse. Later a man by the name of Huey Gorman carried the mail.

Arns M. Gilmer came to the Clay waterhole, which is now the Ed Rucker ranch, and settled there. The people had no commissioners then, but he hired Mr. Chapman to head a road crew to work out a road for the community. Each man had to pay \$5.00 per year, or work the road five days per year. Mr. Gilmer warned the men in and forced them to work or pay. Of course, all the people worked.

After the road work was over for the year, Mr. Chapman milked cows and branded calves for Mr. Gilmer. Later Jess Thurman was appointed commissioner and Will Wright hired and worked the first men for that precinct.

We recall that the Tom Dragoo family had settled on the West Prong in 1881. The Dragoos landed on what is now known as the Hardin Tobin ranch, about seventeen miles north of Rocksprings. They were working a brown steer and a white one to a wagon, and Mr. Dragoo recalls that it lacked a lot of being an automobile.

Mr. Dragoo remembers when they killed the two Mexicans down on the Linden Thurman place. These Mexicans robbed a house in Ballinger, then came on by the old Taylor ranch in Sutton County and had a shooting scrape with

Old Man J. H. Taylor, in which a man was wounded. Then these officers — Sam Merck and Mike Douglas — aided by Old Man Doug Coalson, followed them into Edwards County. The Mexicans stole a horse at the Cawthorn ranch. They came on to Charlie Donaghe's house, and traded their tired horse for a fresh one and both went off riding one horse. The officers caught up with them at the Jerry Ellis ranch and Mike Douglas says that the Mexican riding behind had on an old brown duck jacket, and when they shot him between the shoulders, they saw the dust fly before he hit the ground. Then Sam Merck chased the other Mexican, but he was on a fast horse and almost got away. Sam always swore he didn't hit him, but later the skeleton of a man was found and buried by the side of the first Mexican.

Mr. Dragoo remembers details of the Green Lake fight in 1884. Greer bought the land, fenced it, and put sheep there. Joe Bunton had cattle, and had been using the range free. So he was angry at Greer. He cut Greer's fence, and it was then that Greer brought in some Rangers and the famous Green Lake Battle took place.

Joe Greer and Green Greer were shearing sheep at another place when the fight started. The Rangers were Captain Beard, C. C. Baker, Ira Aten and another man. When Bunton's men opened fire, the Rangers retaliated, and Mason was killed. Henry Bunton, a boy about seventeen years old, was up on the hill, holding horses which were saddled. Ira Aten later told Mr. Dragoo the story and said that Hemphill ran a footrace across the flat to where Henry Bunton was with the horses, while the bullets fell all around him. Hemphill knew the Rangers were after him; so he left and went to the mouth of Wylie in the Kickapoo section. Jess Thurman found him in a cave and fed him until he decided to go in and give himself up.

Mr. Dragoo remembers that the next day after the fight, he and a boy by the name of Lee Smadler rode horseback to the place to look around. Mr. Dragoo was just a big kid then, and they saw Mason, lying on the ground covered with a saddle blanket. The Rangers on the hill called to the boys not to touch the body. Mr. Dragoo called back that he just wanted to take a look. Lee said, "No, let's don't look." But Mr. Dragoo raised the blanket, and he said, later, that if he lived to be a hundred years old, he would never forget what he saw. It was July and the flies were bad. The man had about ten days' growth of red beard, and Mr.

Dragoo repeats that he wished that he hadn't looked.

Those were the days when brands were burned on cattle. Mr. Dragoo says he was just a kid seventeen years old, and came in with the Rangers that were herding Old Man Tankersley's cattle. Most of the men had gone to dinner at the chuck wagon. Barney Beach, about eighteen years old, Will McBride, and Mr. Dragoo were with the chuck wagon when Mr. Dragoo told Barney to get his six-shooter out, as he could hear men riding up with their guns clanking. Up rode several cowmen, each with a six-shooter and a Winchester. The cowboys didn't have any fighting orders, so they didn't make any resistance.

The party told the cowboys they wanted to inspect their cattle. They cut out about one-half of the Tankersley herd. Mr. Dragoo was cutting an old milk cow back and one cowboy kept cutting her back. Directly one of the men said, "That boy knows that old dun cow better than you do. Let her go." So Mr. Dragoo got her. The boys went to joking then and Mr. Dragoo told the men to take the rest of the herd so they wouldn't have to herd them. Dragoo also tried to hire out McBride to them, but the puncher said they didn't need him.

When the cowboys got to Old Man Tankersley's with the cattle, he sure was mad. He sent men back to try to find the rest of them, but without success. Jim Ballantyne told Mr. Dragoo years later that those cattle had been driven to Fort Clark and sold for beef for the soldiers there.

The story of the trip made by the Bill Thurman family to Edwards County in 1882 is an interesting one indeed. The family left Eastland County in the summer of 1882, and located at Kickapoo Springs on the West Nueces in the fall of that year.

There were three wagons in the outfit. Bill Thurman, son of Joe Thurman, drove one wagon; Sam Thurman, and Joe Thurman drove the other two. Joe Thurman had two single children, Addie and Jessie. Laura was nineteen years old. It was the duty of the children to drive the cattle and saddle horses and get wood and water for the camps.

After they left the road and turned down the West prong of the Nueces, the men had to cut a road or trail so that their wagons could get by.

When they reached the Kickapoo branch, they decided to winter there. This branch was named for the Kickapoo

Indians, who made that place their headquarters for many years.

The Nueces was full of fish and the woods were full of bear, deer, and turkey, so they decided to build a log house in order to have shelter for the winter. Thus the first permanent home of any white man on the West Prong of the Nueces River was made by Old Man Joe Thurman in the year 1882.

The family of A. J. Cox moved to Edwards County in the early '80's. They first came to the Kickapoo section on a visit. The family lived at Brackettville, and Andrew was educated at San Antonio. They made their home near the Dutch Battleground.

Andrew wanted to try out some of his newly acquired learning, so he went over the hills to Barksdale, a little village on East Nueces. He became acquainted with some of the good folks there. He showed the people a few specimens of his handwriting, and applied for a writing class. He got the class, all right, and when it was over, Nat Benton, the teacher at Barksdale, encouraged him to apply for a school nearby. Mr. Benton was sure that he could get it. Andrew had to go before a board of examiners in Leakey and take the examinations for a certificate which would entitle him to contract for the school.

Mr. Cox's first school was near Barksdale on Spring Creek, and his second one in the Pulliam community. Some of his patrons in these schools were: Sam Raney, Frank Winans, Ote Coalson, W. R. Webb, John Pope, Al Haley, McGonagill, and Buck Green.

Mr. Cox taught two sessions on the West Nueces, and some of his patrons there were: Bill Thurman, Charles Donaghe, Sam Thurman, Carey Linn, and Brother James Silman.

Andrew Cox had an uncle, "Uncle Ike," who was captured by the Indians and lived with them so long that he took up their language and habits, and never could speak English clearly after he was released. Ike said that the Indian boys wanted to fight them most of the time until one day they had it out to the finish. The bucks then came running, saying, "He fight; he make good warrior." The boys got along well in camp after that. Years after that, when Ike was a guide for the soldiers, he took part in a hand-to-hand fight with the Indians, in a cedar brake where the grass was waist-high.

During the battle, Ike's horse stepped on a big Indian. The Indian rose with a whoop to strike Ike, but a pistol fired and the Indian's brains spattered on Ike's leggings, as the fighting went on. It was a fight to the finish, the Whites winning in a lonely cedar brake northwest of Kickapoo Springs on Indian Creek.

Ike Cox had another engagement with the Indians on the West Nueces at Silver Lake. The settlers had to take shelter in a small log cabin that had a chink hole in it. The men kept firing at the Indians, while the women melted lead into bullets. In this way, the Indians were finally driven off.

Henry Wells came to Vance in 1873. He married Amanda Welch, a sister to Willie and Wiley Welch. He took up a large block of land on the Nueces around Vance and, in 1876, he sold 160 acres to Wiley Welch.

Henry lived in a log house between Vance and the Main Nueces. Will Crow helped Mr. Wells hew the logs for the cabin. All of the Wells children were born in this house, Charlie in 1880, Albert in 1882, J. B. in 1885, and Velma in 1887.

Henry Wells buried the first man to be put away in the Vance cemetery. C. O. Fowler was buried there on October 15, 1875.

Parson Lowe was an early preacher in the Nueces Canyon. He used to preach to the people in their homes, particularly in the Dry Creek area. Haze Taylor remembers that there was an old man, Dr. Roberts, living on Dry Creek in the 1880's, who practiced some over the country. Haze says that he was a good doctor and a good farmer.

In 1885, Vance had one saloon run by a man named Watkins.

Dennis remembers that, when he was a small boy, he went with his parents to a dance at the Gorman place in Barksdale. John Parkerson was there that night and he and Bart Gorman got into a fight. Bart got John's nose in his mouth, and was about to bite it off when the bystanders separated them.

The John Reagan family moved to Spring Creek in 1885.

The Canyon country had a mild drought in 1885, and the Gormans were among those who shifted their stock to fresh range. They moved part of their stock to Polecat on Pulliam Creek. Mr. Stillwell was working for the Gormans at that cow camp that fall, and one day when the men went

out to work the cattle, Mr. Stillwell left his ducking jacket in camp with a five-dollar bill in the pocket. The men came in at noon just in time to see an old cow finishing the last of Mr. Stillwell's jacket. Mr. Stillwell rushed up, jerked out his pistol, and shot the cow dead. When asked why he had pulled such a stunt, he replied that he had no intention of losing that five-dollar bill, and forthwith set about recovering the bill from the cow's stomach. Travis Stillwell says it wasn't such a bad swap after all, because cattle, at the time, were bringing \$2.50 on the market.

In the fall of 1885, Mr. Stillwell helped the Gorman boys carry a string of horses to Las Cruces, New Mexico. They crossed the Pecos River at a ford known as Horsehead Crossing. Evidently the crossing did not have the name at that time, because it then became known as Stillwell's Horsehead Crossing. This ford was on the route of the east- and westbound trail herds.

Pat Garrett, famous old-time sheriff, slayer of Billy the Kid, and friend of Teddy Roosevelt, owned a ranch near Uvalde in the 1880's. When he was Collector of Customs at El Paso, he attended a meeting of the Government Board for Customs Inspectors in New York City. Garrett was a large man, six feet, four inches tall, and clad in his colorful regalia of the Old West, he made an imposing figure.

It was his first visit in New York, and he stopped to inquire of a policeman the way to his hotel. The policeman replied, "Three blocks ahead and up on a Broadway car. But, my young friend, let me advise you to hold tight to that grip. There's lots of fellows in this town lookin' for marks like you."

And the policeman wondered why Garrett laughed.

The Doll family lived on Pulliam Creek in 1885. O. P. H. Smith, a son-in-law of the Dolls, had a little store in Barksdale on the northeast corner of Main and Church Streets. The Dolls had three girls, Lula, Della, and Lillie. They lived in a two-story log house on Pulliam, where Mrs. Doll had a little notions shop in her home. She had a Negro girl working for her there.

The Doll family didn't stay in the Canyon long, but moved out West. After the family left the Canyon, word came back that Mr. Doll, and one of his sons, were killed while the group sat at the supper table. John was the boy killed, and there were two other boys, George and Walter.

George died with tuberculosis, while staying with Bud Pullen.

The Walling family was one of the early settlers to move into the Cedar Creek community. They moved there in 1882. In 1885, Mrs. Walling ran a rooming house in Barksdale. There were five children in the Walling family: Sallie, Annie, Tishie, Hayden, and Evelyn. Sallie married a Haby from Uvalde. She is a grandmother to Edward County's county agent, and also to Nueces Canyon's school athletic director.

The Weltys, the Stouts, the Chisums, and the Winans were all neighbors on Cedar Creek. Old Grandma Welty used to smoke a pipe, as did many of the old grannies of that day. One day she was visiting in the home of Mrs. Buck Green. While standing in the doorway smoking her pipe, Mrs. Welty let a spark of fire fly from her pipe, and the wind caught it up and blew it onto one of Mrs. Green's feather mattresses. The fire almost ruined the bed before it was put out.

The massacre on the Nueces took place on August 10, 1862. A troop of United States soldiers, under the command of Captain Dunn, was instructed to pursue and capture a body of bushwhackers, most of whom were of Dutch extraction, and bring them back to headquarters. The body of soldiers left their station in Fredericksburg and started out in pursuit of the fleeing party of Germans. The bushwhackers were overtaken at a point on the West prong of the Nueces, below Kickapoo Springs, where, after a short but bloody encounter, the fugitives were annihilated. Losses were heavy on both sides, the defenders counting sixty-odd dead from their group and many more wounded. The pursuit party had nearly a score of casualties in dead and wounded.

The dead members of the attacking force were buried in a long trench on the spot, but the bodies of the Dutch bushwhackers were left scattered unburied over the area. The Dutch prisoners were marched up the Canyon after the fight, and shot down in cold blood.

Members of the Union Army company were forced by their commanding officer to make litters for the wounded and carry them on foot for a distance of thirty miles until they met the Fort Clark ambulance detachment, sent out to render help at the battleground.

The remains of the party of massacred Dutch bushwhackers were gathered together, some years after the battle,

and carried to Comfort, Texas, where they were buried.

Dr. Graham, one of the Canyon's early doctors, had a brother named Dee Graham. Dee Graham used to teach singing schools in the Canyon, and his pupils paid him in corn.

Dr. Graham had just one girl in his family of fourteen children. She was married to Amos Taylor, a Baptist preacher.

On Christmas Day, 1885, Laura Thurman, daughter of the Bill Thurmans, was married to Jim Chapman. They had to send to Leakey for their marriage license, and two friends, Jim and Frank Justice, rode horseback to Leakey, the county seat of Edwards County, for the license. They were united in marriage by the local justice of the peace, Jerry Ellis. Laura was the first bride of Kickapoo.

Grandpa Thurman was the only dentist of the Kickapoo settlement, and he also built all the coffins for the community for many years. The cemetery was on the old Thurman homestead, and, up to 1898, no one had been buried there except in a coffin made by Joe Thurman and his son Jesse. The Kickapoo cemetery, where most of the pioneers of this settlement are buried, barely escaped the ravages of the flood of 1935, when the west prong of the Nueces was swelled from mountain to mountain.

The Stewart brothers, Frank and Rube, were among the first families to move into the Canyon. Frank Stewart married Minnie Maul, a niece to Frank Kelley. The Maul family lived near the Buck Greens on Pulliam. One night they had a big dance at a place down the river from the Maul place. They had another dance over in Barksdale on the hill at the Gorman place, and Buck Green went into town to play for that dance. Mrs. Green and Ethel went down to Mrs. Maul's after Mr. Green had left and found Mrs. Maul crying. Family trouble seemed to be the cause.

The Maul family later moved to Rocksprings. While living there, Annie, one of the Maul children, was bitten by a mad cat while sleeping on the front porch of their house. Jim Short, a boy living with the Maul family, was bitten too. Both children died of hydrophobia.

In the November elections of 1885, Ira Wheat was defeated in his race for sheriff, by Jess Sansom of Leakey.

In 1884, Bud Yost built a house in Vance. The Yosts lived at this place several years.

In 1885, Charlie Daly and a Mr. Galbraith came to Ed-

wards County from Ireland. Mr. Galbraith was a wealthy man who had been a banker in Ireland. Mr. Daly had been cashier in Mr. Galbraith's bank. The two men came to the Canyon and went into the stock business. Mr. Daly ran goats on the head of Bullhead and on Hackberry, and at one time worked for Jim Piper. Some of Mr. Galbraith's people joined him later, and settled in the Montell community. Mr. Daly married a member of the Ben Casey family, and lived in the Canyon for more than fifty years.

In 1886, Grandpa Wood, Mrs. Jim Pope's father, lived on the old John Leonard place on Pulliam. The place at that time was little more than a live oak thicket. One day Mr. Wood heard some shots in the vicinity, and went to investigate. He soon struck a trail of blood, and thought, at first, it was that of a wounded bear. He went on and found, along the trail, two dead men.

About that time, two men walked up and asked Mr. Wood what had happened. Mr. Wood suspected foul play, but as the affair meant nothing to him, he made no inquiries of the two men, and went on his way.

It was revealed that the two men were cattle buyers in the country and it was supposed that they had been killed by some local people.

Many years later, when the road was being changed through a mountain pass near the spot, some men working in the road crew found a cave, and in the cave they found two skeletons. People afterward pieced the story together, and came to the conclusion that the two men who had ridden up on Mr. Wood that day had murdered the two cattle buyers, and after discovering that their secret was about to be revealed, had hidden the two bodies in the cave.

According to A. P. Allison, one of Edwards County's earliest settlers, and for many years county judge, the earliest teachers for the Pulliam School were as follows:

The first school was held in a cedar log house located straight east from the old John Leonard place and was taught in 1884 by W. P. Word from Tennessee. He was here on a visit, it was said. He was a good teacher and a strict disciplinarian. This was a pay school.

The next school, in the summer of 1885, was taught by O. A. Burr, at a location near the old Walter Craig place. This was a pay school also.

In 1886, the first free school was taught on Pulliam. The teacher was Miss Mary Sweeten, who was Frank Sweeten's

aunt. It started the second Monday in September, 1886, and ran for five months at \$35 per month. Children who attended this school were Lee, Austin, and Omah Allison; Rosie, Riley, John T., and Franklin Wallace; Lebb, Vesta, Nadine, and John Taylor; Annie Davis; Minnie and Frank Duncan; and Sallie and Jensie Sweeten.

The school in 1887 was taught by Homer Nix. The next year, 1888, it was taught by D. Banforth, an Englishman, who came to America and wandered around, and was said to be a college professor.

In 1889, the school was taught by C. C. Dugat. He was French, a real disciplinarian, especially with boys. He wielded the rod whenever it was needed. Everyone liked him.

In 1890, Mr. Dugat's daughter, Eugenia, taught the school.

In 1891, Annie Ramsey taught for just one day in the new plank schoolhouse before the house burned down.

Fillmore Wallace lived about a mile below the Tom Wood place in 1896. One morning, Mr. Wood was going over on Cedar Creek, and he went by the Wallace place. When he got there, he heard the dogs running up a draw near the house, so he galloped his horse in that direction to see what the dogs were running. Fillmore was with the dogs, and told Mr. Wood that a bear had got into his hogpen the night before and caught a shoat. He had wounded the bear, and the dogs were then trailing it. Mr. Wood joined in the chase. As Fillmore was on foot, Mr. Wood got some distance ahead of him. The dogs chased the bear about a mile and caught up with him near a cave. Mr. Wood ran up to where he could shoot, and aimed for the head, but the bear moved and Mr. Wood hit him in the shoulder. The bear went into the cave.

The men either had to let the bear go or go into the cave after him, so Fillmore said he would go home and get a lantern so they could go into the cave after him. When he got back, they lit the lantern and went into the cave. They had to crawl some distance before the cave widened out so they could walk upright by stooping a little. The bear was lying behind a rock in the back part of the cave with its nose turned up. He was so near dead he couldn't get up — but the men didn't know that. Fillmore said that he could shoot him in the head but Mr. Wood was afraid he would shoot him in the nose. Fillmore insisted that he

could hit him in the head. So Mr. Wood moved to one side and told him to cut down on the bear. Fillmore shot and hit the bear in the nose and put the lantern out. Mr. Wood adds that they weren't long in getting out of there.

They went back with another light, and Mr. Wood shot him in the head and killed him. He was a large bear, but was poor and his meat wasn't very good.

In 1893, J. M. Reddick came to Edwards County.

When Pleas Jones was a small boy living in Barksdale, he and the other boys in the community used to have a lot of fun riding donkeys. John Nix had a pasture just north of town where he had a pen and a big bunch of donkeys. The boys would pen the donkeys and ride them out into the lane where they broke them to ride; then they would ride the donkeys in every direction.

One night Pleas and two of the Winans boys went up to the pen to have some fun. They rounded up the donkeys, cut out two of the wildest, and proceeded to ride them up and down the lane. They heard dogs bark back up the road and sent Doc back to see what the dogs had treed. The dogs had a skunk at bay, so they killed it and started to get back on their donkeys. The donkeys smelled the skunk and wouldn't let the boys mount. They fooled around about an hour trying to get on the donkeys and finally dragged the bridle reins over a fence post. The donkeys got scared, broke the reins, and ran off with the saddles. The boys went back then to get the horses. One of the horses was gone. They waited there until daylight, and found the donkeys before Old Man Nix had time to get up there and investigate.

In the early '80's, the Threadgill family lived on a ranch between Camp Wood and Montell. They lived in a big two-story house and ran sheep and cattle on their ranch. Another man, also a ranchman, was a neighbor of the Threadgills. These families had been having some trouble over their livestock, and the quarrel finally progressed to the point where the two men met one day and in the ensuing fight, Threadgill was killed. Mr. Threadgill was buried on the bank of Maverick Creek, a short distance below the Threadgill home, by the side of an infant daughter who had preceded him in death.

Ethel Pope says that when her family lived on Pulliam Creek, she went to a little school down the river near Mrs. Anderson's present ranch home. John Reagan's family was

living at that time in a log house above Barney Payne's place, just a short distance from the schoolhouse. Mr. Reagan had a mean cow on his place, and every morning, just before the Green children would get to his place on their way to school, Mr. Reagan would saddle his horse and ride along with the children to protect them from this cow.

An old fellow named Wilson, who lived across the river on the present Terry Hill place, taught this school. Mrs. Pope says he used to whip the children on the hands with a pencil. One day, on the way to school, the Green children met an old bull. The children were cut off on one side by the river and on the other by the bull. The bull stayed under a tree and kept the children away from school nearly all day.

When Miss Annie Ramsey taught school on Dry Creek she rode a little bay horse from Barksdale to the schoolhouse. On her way to school, she always picked up the George Cromeans children, Dutch and Yank. Dutch would ride behind the saddle, and Miss Annie always put Yank up in front.

Mrs. Casey recalls the time when her father, George Cromeans, took her and Yank one fall down on the river below Barksdale to gather pecans for themselves. She says that most of the river bottoms and pecan lands were open country in those days. They camped in a bottom across the creek from the Y. O. Coleman place. Grandma Cromeans was staying with Mrs. Coleman at the time. She came across the river and stayed with Mr. Cromeans and the children while they gathered pecans. The deer would make so much noise at night that the pecan-gatherers couldn't sleep.

Grandma Cromeans was an old country doctor who ministered to sick people all over the country. Two of her favorite remedies were balmony and pepper tea. One time when the Loss Alexander family was living on the river near the Cromeans place, Mr. Alexander came down one night to get Grandma Cromeans to act as midwife for his wife, who was expecting momentarily. Mrs. Cromeans came and smoked her pipe until the baby was born, and that was how Lois Alexander came into the world.

Uncle Tom Cromeans, one of Grandma Cromeans' boys, was a friend and a father to everybody in the community. Preachers were always welcomed in his home. He felt a special responsibility toward Mrs. Wheat and Mrs. Stieber, neighbors of his, whose husbands were away from home

a great part of the time, attending to the affairs of their separate county offices.

In the early days, pioneer families lived a very frugal life. They had few luxuries, but didn't miss them because they had never become accustomed to them. Mrs. Frank Casey states that beef, milk, butter, and bacon were the staple foods. Most families had biscuits for breakfast, but ate cornbread at the other two meals. They secured their honey from the woods, where the wild bees stored it in the caves on the hillsides and in hollow trees. Occasionally, the families enjoyed pies made from wild berries and fruits. Every country family raised its own corn, and usually had it ground into meal in the local gristmill as it was needed. People got their cash money from the sale of cattle, hogs, pecans, mohair, and wool, although these last two commodities were not produced extensively until after the turn of the century.

In 1886, Mr. Stillwell became engaged to a daughter of Bob Sweeten, and the couple were married in Barksdale. They made their first home on a little place below the Stieber ranch, east of Barksdale.

Maggie Neal (Mrs. John Thomas Wallace) says that her Grandpa Burr started to settle one time where the town of Rocksprings is now. They put up a picket wall and covered it with grass. They put in a little field, and planted some corn. But the water finally dried up. The Willmore family that was with the Burrs had a shepherd who claimed to be a water witch, so he began to witch for water and they started to dig several wells by hand. Of course, they had to give it up as a bad job. The Burrs thought they had camped by a permanent waterhole. They could hear waterbugs croaking under the rocks, and attributed the noise to water.

There was a cow-camp close to the Burr's cabin. The men there were John and Frank Gray, Hugh Barber, Dan Parker, and Lee Hext. They all thought the spring was permanent water, and had camped at that spot for that reason.

That was the prettiest and the finest country in those days, says Mrs. Wallace. There were grown horses and cattle everywhere with not a sign of a brand on them, and big lakes of water all over the country.

Mr. Burr went over the Gray cow-camp one day, and told the men that the water would all dry up as the Burr waterhole had done.

Mr. Burr went down to the head of Little Hackberry, and bought out Johnny Sattathite. The place at that time went by the name of Bull Springs, and the spring went dry soon after the Burrs moved there. However, the Burr family managed to find sufficient water to live there for several years.

Uncle Dave Neal came to the Burr place then, and stayed with them until Mr. Wheat bought a ranch on the Divide, when he moved to Mr. Wheat's and worked for him.

Grandpa Burr had bees. He used to get them out of caves and hollow trees and put them in patented hives. He sent away for a fine queen and built up his bees from the native black bees with Italians and Carolinas, which are large grey bees, fighters, but good workers.

He would take the honey to San Angelo, Big Springs, and Abilene, and peddle it, and bring back some of the biggest watermelons ever seen by the folks in the Canyon.

The bear used to get into his bees at night, but it turned out badly for the bear. Uncle Dave Neal would take the hounds, and get him the next day. There weren't any lions there then. Panthers, coyotes, and foxes destroyed the people's livestock.

The S. H. Guthrie family moved to Edwards County in 1887, and settled on the South Llano at Seven Hundred Springs. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Guthrie, among whom were Frank, Lockley, and Cebia, born December 8, 1898, the first set of triplets born in Edwards County. Dr. Frank Robertson, the attending physician, had Mrs. Lockley as a nurse. Frank was a namesake of Dr. Robertson, and Lockley was a namesake for Mrs. Lockley. Cebia was named for Cebia Smart, mother of Lon Smart, Sr.

Sam A. Hough, Sr., came to Edwards County in 1887, after his graduation from law school, and settled at Leakey. He later became county attorney for Edwards County, and when the county seat was moved to Rocksprings, he took up residence there where his practice as a lawyer increased in scope and importance. He served several years as county attorney, and in 1900 was elected county judge. He held that office eight years, and in 1908 made the race for the office of county and district clerk, to which he was elected. He served well in that capacity for many years.

Tom Wood recalls an experience he had with a bear back in 1887 while he was living on Pulliam Creek. It was in the fall of the year and Mr. Wood and his wife went

down the river two or three miles below their place to stay all night with his wife's mother. As they were coming home the next morning, they passed through a pecan bottom, and when they got within about 300 yards of the house, the dogs ran ahead, barking viciously. Mr. Wood galloped his horse, and found that the dogs had two little cubs up a tree, and the old bear was trying to fight off the dogs. When he saw Mr. Wood, he ran across the road ahead of him. Mr. Wood was riding a wild pony, and was afraid to jump down and shoot, so he jerked his gun out of the scabbard, and fired one shot at the old bear, hitting her in the hind leg. The dogs ran on after the old bear, so Mr. Wood shot the two cubs out of the tree, jumped on his horse, and galloped up the river a half-mile to where Dr. Whitehurst lived. Drew Davis, Doc's stepson, was there, and Mr. Wood told him that his dogs were after a bear, so Drew took his dogs and followed the bear and killed her.

On another occasion, Mr. Wood was out in the cow pen milking, one morning, when he heard Pete Wallace's dogs barking down the river about a mile below the Woods place. Mr. Woods soon discovered they were coming up the river, so he kept watching on the mountain east of the house, and soon he saw a big bear running up the side of the hill about 600 yards from the house. Mr. Wood ran into the house and got his gun, took his dogs, and started out after the bear. The dogs ran the bear about a half-mile, and treed it. Mr. Wood ran up to within thirty steps of the bear and shot at it three times, and he says he doesn't think he ever touched it. The bear came down the tree and ran off.

Mr. Wood says he had heard about men having the buck-ague when they started to shoot at a deer, but he had never heard of a case of bear-ague before.

In July, 1886, the Neal family lived on Pulliam Creek. There had been some difficulty between John Neal and a neighbor, and on the Fourth of July, John Neal had gone down to the Sam Field place to get a haircut. While Mr. Field was cutting Mr. Neal's hair, the neighbor rode up to the front gate on his horse.

Old-timers say that both men had been carrying guns for each other for some time. Mr. Field and Mr. Neal were on the front porch and Neal's gun was leaning against the door. Neal spoke and, after a short argument, told the other

man that he was unarmed. He walked over to get his gun and was immediately shot down. The other fellow left the country, but came back years later and was cleared.

On January 31, 1887, Thomas I. Ramsey was appointed postmaster at Barksdale, to fill the place recently vacated by Robert K. Kernodle. The post office was moved into the Ramsey home on the east side of Main Street. It had previously been in a little house south of the Fleischer house.

Mrs. Frank Casey remembers the first camp meeting she ever attended. It was under a brush arbor at Lee Bottom four miles above Barksdale. She says there were lots of people there, and that two men, Brother Hazelwood and Brother Uzzell, did the preaching. She recalls that people did a lot of shouting back in those days at camp meetings. On this occasion, the fervor of the people was pretty high. One of Mrs. Casey's uncles got happy and tried to climb one of the arbor posts.

During those old camp meetings, people who lived any great distance away would come and camp in the vicinity of the meeting grounds. Nearly everybody in the country would attend the meetings. All else was forgotten in the spirit of the occasion, and the people rejoiced and fellowshiped together, sharing with each other as their needs required.

One time Jess Roberts got into some kind of trouble with one of his neighbors. He didn't want to be arrested so he came down to Barksdale to see if he could get the matter straightened out. He came by Uncle Tom Cromeans' place on the way down, and Uncle Tom made him stop by to eat dinner. Mr. Cromeans would never let anyone pass his gate without inviting them in for dinner or for a friendly chat.

Jess told Mr. Cromeans about his trouble and Uncle Tom said he would go down to Barksdale with Jess and help him get the matter settled. They went on down to town and stopped their horses in front of Uncle Bob Sweeten's house. Mr. Sweeten, at that time, was the local justice of the peace. After Uncle Tom had reviewed the case with Mr. Sweeten, Uncle Bob said, "Well, let's try him." And try him they did. Jess was exonerated and sent back home.

The Nueces Canyon is noted for its sudden cloudbursts and swollen rivers. Rainfall records have been set in the area, and it is said that, according to the population, the region has the heaviest rainfall in the world at particular

times and in certain places.

These storms come suddenly, and sometimes the river bottoms will become flooded overnight. Such a rain came in the fall of 1887 when the family of Buck Green lived on Pulliam Creek west of Barksdale. The Greens had moved there two years before, and had built a log house near the bank of the river. Without warning one night Pulliam Creek came down on a big rise and flooded the valley. The floodwaters were two or three feet in the house of the Green family and flooded all the country 'round about. Mrs. Ethel Pope remembers that Jim and Alice Hill had come over to spend the night with the Green family. At midnight, Mrs. Green woke up to find water coming into the fireplace. The members of the family jumped up and threw the beds up on the bedsteads. They had pallets all over the floor. They went out the kitchen door; the water was up under their arms. The front door had been left open, and Mrs. Green's old trunk had washed up against the open door, lodging there. Mr. Green's fiddle was floating around in front of the trunk. An old hen and a dog were on the bed the next morning when the family came down out of the trees around the house. Jim Hill took his wife, Alice, their small baby, and Mrs. Green up on the roof of the house. Ethel's brother, Jim, had jumped up on the grindstone and had fallen off. Alice's little girl and Ethel and Mr. Green sat up in a tree. It was in June, but the weather was cold and disagreeable. The cows and calves were bawling, the dogs howling, and the horses neighing. The horses were in the lot when the flood broke, but when the fences went down, the horses took to the hills. The only creatures that didn't seem to mind the water were Mrs. Green's ducks. They really had a time. The wagon went down the road just like somebody was driving it. The Greens later recovered some of their calves down by the John Pope place.

The little schoolhouse on Dry Creek was going strong in 1887. Some of the teachers who followed Miss Annie Ramsey in this school were Miss Sallie Sweeten, Miss Sallie McGowan, and Will Hunter.

At Vance, the children were still attending the little school near the cemetery. Some of the teachers who taught there in the 1880's were Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Crawford, and Mr. Cole.

The Barksdale people put up a new school building in 1887. It was a long one-room frame building, located on

the site of the present Barksdale building. Mr. Robertson taught the first year in the new schoolhouse. Dennis Pope, who attended the first term taught in the new building, says that the teacher whipped pupils frequently, and used to make the children sit in a corner and wear a dunce cap. Carl and Rufus Kirchner, Bascom Cox, the John Pope children, and Ed Coleman were among the children attending this school.

This school building was used for church gatherings for about eighteen years.

In 1887, T. J. Morriss, T. W. J. Hobbs, and J. F. Balten discovered the kaolin deposits between Camp Wood and Leakey, and filed their claim for the mineral right with the county clerk of Edwards County.

Captain W. W. Wallace moved to Barksdale in 1887 from Rockport, Texas, with his four children, Lee, Dee, Kate, and Jim. Mrs. Wallace died in Rockport in 1884. Captain Wallace, before moving to Edwards County, had been the captain of a troop of Rangers. He was also a veteran of the Civil War, having fought on the side of the Confederacy in that struggle.

When the Wallace family arrived in Barksdale, they found little more than a village there. The family of John Nix had a residence, a little store, a cotton gin, and a gristmill. John A. Barnes had a dwelling house and a store on his property; also a small rent house near the edge of town. The Wallings had a one-story log building near the center of town, where occasional boarders were kept. The Fleischers had their home there. The Jones family had a place on the west side of Main Street near the hill, and a little blacksmith shop nearby. The Thomas Ramseys had a new home on Main Street, which pretty well made up the entire town.

Captain Wallace built his home on a lot on the corner of Main and Church streets. He put up a store building on a lot south of his residence, fronting on Main Street. In 1885, Mr. Wallace decided to move to Barksdale and had begun construction of his store building at that time. He moved his family to Barksdale in 1887.

Paul Jones had the contract in 1887 to drive the mail from Barksdale to Rocksprings. He used a single horse buggy, and sometimes made the trip on horseback.

In 1887, Dan Crier was a deputy of Ira Wheat. The Criers lived across the river on the Rhodes place.

In 1887, Bob Sweeten was promoting a town for the Divide country. Mr. Sweeten had moved to the Divide in 1885, and bought the land where the present town of Rocksprings now stands, from J. B. Price. He drilled the first water well on the townsite in company with Rube Stewart, F. D. Friday and Reuben Franklin, and mortgaged his last milk cow to get the well finished. The location of the old well is under the present Dud Edwards store. The Sweetens tore down their house in Barksdale and moved it to Rocksprings.

At the time when they came to this new location, there were no wagon roads other than the trail from Fort Clark to Fort McKavitt. Mr. Sweeten and the boys had to cut down trees and roll the rocks away to make a trail for the wagons. When they arrived at their new location, they used water from the spring on the Fred Ross place. At that time, the spring ran a stream of water an inch in diameter, and made a hole of water for watering stock. There was no cedar then and no fences. Stock was moved from one good grazing place to another.

Ira L. Wheat, during his several terms as sheriff, was known as one of the best in all the state. He was a man absolutely without fear. His record during his many years in the office of sheriff of Edwards County is an open book, and no man in the state served his country in a more acceptable manner, and with less fear and favor than was shown in the activities of Mr. Wheat during the period of reconstruction throughout the Southwest when this country had dangerous men to cope with — a criminal element that drifted to this country from nearly every part of the United States in order that they might practice their criminal pursuits in a thinly populated region of mountains and caverns far removed from the districts where they were known and wanted.

Ira Wheat relates that while he and Captain Frank Jones were hunting the Odle boys, they had occasion to go down into Devil's Sinkhole and while there, explored it to some extent, finding thousands of pounds of honey hanging from the roofs of the different rooms in the cave. He went on to say that he and Captain Jones shot from their anchorages over a wagonload of the best honey he had ever tasted.

The Ed Wall family came to Edwards County from Sonora. The Walls first lived on the Rhodes place. They later moved to Cedar Creek and built a log cabin on a big

hollow that comes in from the west. This hollow still is known as Ed Wall Hollow.

Ira Welch was born on Spring Creek, November 1, 1888, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lon Welch, and was named after Ira Wheat, long-time neighbor of the Welch family.

Mrs. Garner was one of the C. H. Kirchner girls before her marriage to Mr. Garner. At the time of her death, in the 1930's, she had the distinction of having never received mail from any post office other than the Barksdale post office during her whole lifetime of more than sixty years.

Parson Potter, as he was always known, was an early Canyon preacher, and was called "the cowboy preacher" because he was a converted cowpuncher. He preached in the homes and the schoolhouses all up and down the Canyon.

Dr. Reynolds was one of the first doctors to practice medicine in the town of Barksdale.

The M. Z. Weaver family moved to Edwards County in 1888. Mr. Weaver was one of the pioneer citizens of the town of Rocksprings, and operated the first livery stables there. He was also an early peace officer of the county, serving as deputy sheriff under Ira Wheat. Mr. Weaver had several children, one son, Allen, and another, Barney; and three daughters, Mrs. C. W. Warren, Mrs. S. S. Henry, and Mrs. O. H. Osborne.

Ira Wheat, after being out of the office of sheriff for two years, was re-elected in 1888. Other officers elected for the term beginning in 1888 were D. D. Thompson, county judge; C. H. Kirchner, commissioner for precinct No. 2; Thomas Cunningham, county clerk; A. G. Vogel, treasurer; and J. R. Sweeten, county tax assessor.

The building that housed the county court and the county records burned down July 10, 1888. Certain parties were suspected of having committed arson in the burning of the building, but no clear proof was ever established. One book of records was saved, all of the other records being lost in the fire. Immediately following the fire, the people of the county voted an \$800 bond to construct a new building. The matter of erecting a courthouse came up at the first session of the Commissioners Court, in 1888. Bids were received by the court on the building, which was to be a two-story box house made of lumber, 22 feet wide, 36 feet long, and 20 feet high. A. W. Ackerly of Barksdale, having submitted the low bid of \$645, was awarded the contract. He was also

paid \$84.93 for building office furniture for the new courthouse.

Valuation of property in Edwards County as rendered for tax purposes in 1888 was \$1,861,168. The tax rate was \$.50 on the \$100 valuation.

At the 1888 term of the Commissioners Court, the matter of construction of county roads was discussed. Some of the roads for which petitions had been submitted were: Road No. 5 from the corner of Joe Beck's pasture through the gap of the mountain via the Burris ranch to the head of Hackberry; Road No. 7 from Joe Beck's pasture west to Pulliam Creek and then up Spring Creek down Lost Creek to the Kinney County line; and Road No. 6, beginning from a point opposite the W. R. Webb ranch on Pulliam Creek up Cedar Creek to its head. The court voted to provide money for the above proposed roads.

The Sam Field and the Bud Field families moved to Edwards County from Limestone County in 1888. Allan Sawyers and his father, relatives of the Field families, came into the country the same year. The Bud Field family first settled on the place now occupied by members of the George Wood Family. Mr. Field built a one-room log cabin there that had only one window and one door. There were no shutters on the window. One of the first experiences this family had after moving to this place is related by Lemmie Field, one of Bud Field's boys.

One day, Mr. Field robbed a bee tree and put the vessel of honey on a table by the only window in the house. Mr. Field was working for Sam Raney, and Mrs. Field was alone that day. During the night, a bear came to the cabin, and tried to get into the house. He stuck his paw into the window trying to reach the honey, but the opening was too small for him to get through. Lemmie, in telling the story, says that his mother didn't sleep much that night.

The Field family stayed at this place only a short time. They moved next to the Ira Wheat place east of Barksdale.

The Sam Field family settled on Pulliam Creek, six or seven miles above Barksdale.

Allan Sawyers' sister, Martha, married one of the Welty boys.

After the Bud Field family moved from the Ira Wheat place, they lived on Spring Creek awhile, and from there they moved to the head of Pulliam to what is now known as the old Bates place.

The hunt for the Odle boys, Alvin and Will, ended in tragedy for the two men in the year 1888. The search for the two brothers, who were wanted for the killing of their brother-in-law, John Stroops, came to a close in the shadow of Bullhead Mountain on Christmas Eve, 1888.

The Odle boys were a product of the Old West, and were, in a sense, the victims of an unfavorable and lawless environment. Friends of the Odle family say that the boys were good workers, and had many other good qualities, but that they got in with the wrong crowd and took up the habits of their sometimes lawless companions.

The night the two men were killed, there was a party going on at the Taylor home above Vance, and a large crowd of people had gathered for a dance in Vance.

The sheriff's office at Leakey had gotten word that the Odle brothers would be at a certain place on Christmas night. Mr. Wheat, the sheriff, sent word to Will Terry, his deputy at Vance, to gather a posse of men and to be prepared to take the two men. Terry gathered his posse, which included, among others, Captain Hughes, Texas Ranger, Paul Jones, Dan Crier, and Jim Rhodes of Barksdale, and Henry Wells at Vance. There were twelve or fifteen men in the group.

The men concealed themselves behind a picket fence at the east slope of Bullhead Mountain about a mile above Vance. There, they waited for the boys, whom they expected momentarily. Soon the clap-clap of horse's hoofs on the hard ground could be heard. The sounds came from the direction of Vance. Terry gave final words of command, and the men waited in breathless silence. In a few minutes, the dark forms of the riders loomed up in the darkness as they trotted their mounts up the road. Suddenly the word "Halt!" sounded on the still air. The horses of the two men broke to run, but a fusilade of shots from the direction of the fence knocked down one of the horses and its rider. The rider was killed instantly with a shot through the head. The other rider was wounded in the arm, and while trying to use his gun with one hand, and being unable to control his horse with the wounded arm, was carried directly toward the place where the posse lay concealed. The next burst of fire brought this rider to the ground. The deed was accomplished. The sheriff's orders had been carried out. Another case of frontier justice had taken place.

Josh Burleson, the justice of the peace at Vance, was

called to the spot to make the inquest. While examining the bodies, Mr. Burleson found a sack of biscuits in the clothing of one of the men. It was later learned that a family at Vance had prepared the food for the boys, and it was believed that the bread must have been prepared just before the departure of the two men, for the biscuits were still warm when they were found on the bodies of the dead men.

Mrs. Pippin, a member of a Vance family, asked permission to come and identify the bodies. She identified them as those of Alvin and Will Odle.

The next day, the two men were buried together in a grave near the spot where they had fallen. A number of people were there that day; many with sad faces, some with thoughtful hearts.

Some months after the killing of the two men, Zac Eppler carved an inscription on a large rock near the gravesite. He built a fence around the graves, and this fence, and the huge stone that identifies the graves, marks the spot where the two boys fell more than seventy years ago.

When the posse was being formed for the ambushade, Jim Rhodes protested vigorously that he didn't want to take part in the affair. The summoning officer insisted, and Mr. Rhodes finally remarked, "You can make me go but you can't make me shoot." After the firing had ceased, and the smoke had cleared away, Mr. Rhodes, to prove the sincerity of his protest, threw all the cartridges from the magazine of his rifle, and an inspection revealed that not a single shell had been fired.

In 1888, Sam Raney moved his family from South Spring Creek to Pulliam. He built a house on the bank of the river, some distance south of the spot where the present Raney house is located.

The Raney house was a place where hospitality prevailed. Everybody was welcome in the Raney home, and, as one old-timer expressed it, it was a house of merriment and laughter. Many of the community dances took place in the Raney home. For one thing, the house was big and roomy, much bigger, in fact, than most of the Canyon homes, and too, the Raney house was located in a central part of the community and was accessible to people from a wide area.

People came for miles around to these dances. From Cedar Creek came the Coalsons, the Weltys, the Chisums, the Pullens, and from the Pulliam prong came the Popes, and the Greens, and the Webbs.

From the upper Pulliam, Polecat, and Little Hackberry, came the Taylors, the Wallaces, the Hamricks, the Neals, the Burrs, and the Woods.

The Kirchners, the Jones', the Grantlands, and the Rhodes' came from Barksdale.

Uncle Buck Green or Hal Pannell usually did the fiddling. Usually two fiddles were used, one instrument being played as a second. There were few guitars in those days.

Among the old breakdowns often heard at these dances, were the "The Waggoner," "Durang's Hornpipe," "Fisher's Hornpipe," "Buffalo Gals," "Ida Red," and "Arkansas Traveler." Waltzes were very popular dance steps in the 1880's. Seldom would a dance end before "Over the Waves" had been played at least once, and when the plaintive tones of the old favorite, "Home Sweet Home," came in its soft cadence from the violin of Uncle Buck Green, then the folks knew that it was time to go home.

Ordinarily, only a part of the dancers could occupy the floor at one time. The floor manager had charge of that part of the program. When he called out the names of the couples whose turn came next, these couples would take their places on the floor for that set. The fiddlers would then strike up a lively tune, the caller would call out the figures of the square, and the dancers would go 'round and 'round until all the figures were completed.

"The Figure 8" was one of the old calls. It went something like this, but the expert caller of the old days used many variations, and special phrases of his own:

Everybody dance, swing your partners and promenade.
First couple out to the right, and swing four hands
around.

Swing six hands around and break the chain, and form
figure 8 around the ladies, and then around the gent.

Then all hands up and circle to your left.

Do Si Do, Ladies, and you, gents, too.

Promenade your partners out, next couple and repeat.
Then promenade home.

Outside Circle

First couple out, hands up and walk the floor,

Birds fly out, crows fly in.

Three hands up and going again.

Crow flies out and four hand around.

Swing right and to the left and on to next couple.

Double L Swing

First couple out to the right and swing four.

Do Si Do, ladies, fare you well. Swing with the double ell.

Millard Parkerson made one of the first pastures in the Vance neighborhood, and enclosed it with a cedar brush fence. One day, in referring to old Dr. Pannell, Mr. Parkerson said, "Boys, there's a man who will doctor you all the winter to get to hang you in the spring."

Bud Yost built the first lumber house on Brushy Creek in the 1880's. When Vance became the county seat, he moved there and built a house on some lots purchased from Henry Wells.

Dab Boales was once a citizen of Vance. Race horses, they say, were his passion, but he nearly always lost. He died at the age of 104.

A Mr. Jones settled on Bullhead in an early day. He and a Mr. Darmelly had a difference of opinion while sitting one day on Bud Yost's front porch. Darmelly seized a chair and struck at Jones, who parried the blow. They were then separated, and Darmelly left at once. Then Bud Yost was stunned to see blood on Darmelly's path. "What does this blood mean?" he gasped. "Oh, I stabbed the old reprobate," said Jones. That closed the incident. Men of their type scarcely ever hailed anyone into court.

The best ropers around Vance were Andy Welch, Lee Hext, Jim Waddell, and Zack Eppler, but they were by no means all the good ones. Once on a trail drive, a wild cow left the herd. "Get out of my way," said Zac Eppler. Jim Waddell was swinging his rope and gave no heed. But he did a moment later; Zac forefooted Jim's horse and rolled him a somersault. This incident provides a glimpse, perhaps, of those wild-riding days.

E. A. Dragoo's old cow brands were —T— and J5 on one side, and 10 on the other. The Dodson brand was DOD on one side and SON on the other. Jerry Ellis branded ELS; Virge Brown branded AYR; Coleman, JHC; Hornsby, DF, and Hemphill, WACO.

Tom Dragoo remembers that he was present at the burial of Mason after the Green Lake fight, and that some of the others who were present were E. A. Dragoo, Lem Henderson, Frank Harris, Fred and Frank Hagerman, Arch Bryant, and W. M. Bradford. Mr. Dragoo goes on to say that another man was killed at Green Lake and was buried

there about a year before Mason was killed. Old Bill Turner shot and killed Jim Tillory, after Tillory shot Turner but didn't kill him. Tom Dragoo went with his father to Leahey for the Turner trial. Mr. Dragoo was a witness in the case. Tom said that never until he was grown did he see a dead man who had died a natural death.

Mr. Dragoo recalls details of the activities of the pursuit party that trailed the Indians following the McLauren massacre. An old Negro guide by the name of Primas told him all about it, and so did General Bullis who was in command of the pursuit party. Captain Bullis, and a band of men, including Rufe Winn, Jim Stone, and Creed Taylor, were camped near Kickapoo near some old cedar pens that had been built to keep the Indians and Mexicans from stealing the ranchmen's horses, while they gathered wild cattle to feed the soldiers at Fort Clark.

They had hobbled their spare horses and had ridden over to Barksdale to a dance, when an Indian raid was reported. That was when the Indians killed Mrs. McLauren, in April of 1882. The pursuit party found where the Indians had depredated in several places, and where they had camped at Kickapoo Springs. They followed them on across the Devil's River, and Old Primas said that the wind was very high, and that they passed the Indian Camp without noticing it, but turned back and killed most of the Indians when they heard the Indian dog bark.

Mr. Dragoo says that, on the first occasion when he ever saw Pete Wood, Mr. Wood and a boy by the name of Jim Thompson were horse-hunting. Tom and his daddy were horse-hunting, too. They had trailed the horses to a place where someone had built a fence around a water seep to keep stock from drinking the water. This is where Rock-springs got its name.

Mr. Dragoo recalls that the first school he ever attended was at a place now known as the Tobin ranch. It was taught by an Englishman named Nagle. Nagle married in Leahey and left the country. Later on, two of Nagle's sisters came by trying to find him; it turned out he was an ambassador from England to Old Mexico.

Mr. Dragoo's next teacher was Effie Greer, who later married Old Man L. K. Henderson. The children who went to that school were the Dragoos, Johnnie Greer, Nan, Eunice, and Allie Henderson.

Jim Barksdale had the first water well drilled that was

ever put down in the Kickapoo neighborhood. He promised to pay \$150 to the man for drilling it, but when it was time to pay, he didn't have but \$10; so he went around and took up money from his neighbors until he had enough to pay for it. Mr. Dragoo says that's the way they did it in those days; they needed wells because they had to drift their stock so far to water. Mr. Dragoo went on to say that he had seen as many as 1500 cattle drifting down the draws for water, and not a man in sight. They drifted from as far as Beaver Lake on Devil's River, in dry times.

One of the worst droughts to hit the country was in 1886. It was a bad, long drought and there were no wells in the country, of course. Mr. Dragoo says they would start drifting in a few cattle, and by the time they would get them to water, they would have thousands of cattle and dozens of men and horses. The cattle died by the hundreds.

Mr. Dragoo says that, one time when he was in San Angelo, there was a man from the North there with a vinegarron in a bottle of whiskey. Old John Smith, the father of Mrs. Arthur Barrows of Rocksprings, was in a saloon, too, and he could always tell the best jokes, and laugh the loudest of anybody in the world. This Yankee asked him if a vinegarron was poisonous. Old John said, "Well, I don't know if they are poisonous or not, but one time I saw a man rope a mule. A vinegarron stung him on the arm and killed him instantly; then the sting ran on down the rope and killed the mule. And darned if that rope didn't swell up and burst right down the middle."

The Yankee walked out amid the laughter, and left his whiskey, which was very much to the liking of John.

V. A. (Virge) Brown once remarked, "I can't make a speech, but I think that I'm a builder." The record of Mr. Brown's achievements, particularly in the Edwards County area, certainly bears out the last part of his statement.

Mr. Brown moved to Edwards County in 1883. He says that for nine years he slept on a pallet, drank branch water, and wore rawhide boots and ducking clothes. His first four children were born in a four-foot log cabin, and there wasn't a doctor within fifty miles of the Brown home. As it was impossible to get the service of a doctor, the children were born with a midwife, as was the custom in frontier settlements.

Mr. Brown declares that, in 1883, the Edwards County

area was an empire in itself. The land included within the boundaries was half school and university land. Much of it was listed under the name of non-existent railroad companies. In many respects, the country was a veritable paradise. The undesirable characteristics of all frontier regions were also present.

The family of Lon R. Smart, Sr., moved to Edwards County in 1889. Mr. Smart's father was one of the founders of Rocksprings.

The G. W. Ellis family moved to Edwards County in 1889, and settled in the Kickapoo section. Later they sold their ranch on West Prong to members of the Thurman family, and settled on another ranch southeast of Rocksprings.

In the late 1880's, the family of Lon Buck lived at the mouth of a long open hollow, two or three miles below Vance. This big draw still bears his name. Dr. Graham, and his family of thirteen boys and one girl, were neighbors to Mr. Buck. A Mr. Baker lived on the river below the Graham cabin. The road that passed the Baker place was a steep incline. This hill is still known as Baker's Hill.

When the George Hamrick family moved into the country from the Llano, in 1883, they bought a pre-emption of land from George Taylor on Polecat Creek. They moved from that place in 1888 to the Neal place on Little Hackberry, the righthand fork of the Pulliam prong of the Nueces. The Broomfield family lived below the Hamricks.

In 1888, Mr. Stillwell trained race horses for the Thurmans at Kickapoo Springs. While working there, Mr. Stillwell trained the famous race horse "Red Cloud," a horse that became an outstanding racing animal on the race tracks of a wide area. The Thurmans matched this horse against horses owned by the Parkersons at Vance, the Pannells, the Ote Coalsons, on Cedar Creek, and the Kirchners on Spring Creek. Mr. Stillwell also trained the Mamie Sites mare for the Thurmans, which ran against many high-powered horses and won.

Mrs. Bud Reagan, Dona Cromeans before her marriage, recalls some of her experiences when she was a little girl. She went to school with the other members of her family in the little log schoolhouse across from the Math Taylor place on Dry Creek, and she says her first teacher was Will Hunter. Her uncle, Jack Cromeans, lived near the head of Dry Creek, and operated his gristmill there. She stayed a lot

with her uncle at the headwaters, and she remembers riding in the ox wagon with her Uncle Jack, from his place to the mill.

The story has already mentioned that the Cromeans mill was slow, and that Mr. Cromeans would sometimes stay up half the night to finish grinding out the corn for some impatient customer. Joe Chant used to carry corn to the mill, and he said the mill wouldn't grind but one grain at a time.

Mrs. Reagan says her father, George Cromeans, used to work for John and Millard Parkerson as a cowboy. At one time, the Parkerson boys had a string of cattle at Pecan Springs on Bullhead. George Cromeans worked for the Parkersons on that place. One time they rounded up a big bunch of cattle to take to Kerrville. Mr. Cromeans went along to help with the drive. He was supposed to be gone just a few days, but the trip took nine days instead. While he was away, the family heard a scream one night, like the sound of a woman's voice. Mrs. Cromeans barred the door so the panther couldn't get into the house.

She remembers a big stallion that Mr. Stillwell had at the Wheat ranch. The horse was very dangerous, and would sometimes get out. Mr. Cromeans went to Barksdale in his wagon one day, and as he was passing the Wheat place, the stallion attacked Mr. Cromeans' team. He had to get a pole and beat the stallion off to keep him from killing the team.

In the late 1880's, Grandma McDonald, grandfather of Haze Taylor, moved to Dry Creek and stopped at the Tobe Edwards place. Willie McDonald moved in a short time later, and built a house on Tobe Edwards' place.

The Taylors, the McDonalds, the Cromeans', and the Kinseys all traded with John A. Barnes in Barksdale. Haze Taylor says that Captain Wallace didn't stay in Barksdale very long, but sold his mercantile business to John A. Barnes, and moved to Vance. Captain Wallace built a store there on the east side of the road, just east of the John Parkerson home. The store building faced south.

The family of Cody Roberts moved to the Canyon from Coryell County in 1888, and settled on Four Mile Prairie above Vance. Mrs. Roberts had been married to a Mr. Chant before her marriage to Roberts, and had four children from that union: Joe, Will, George, and Mollie. She had several children from her last marriage: Ben, Laura, Lydia, Cora,

Dora, Roxie, Dan and Luther. Dora and Roxie died soon after the arrival of the family in the country, and were buried in the Vance cemetery.

The Roberts family immediately settled down to the business of making a living. They ran a little bunch of goats, killed the wild game that abounded in the country, gathered the wild honey and fruits from the hills, and caught fish from the nearby streams. They did some farming, raising enough corn to supply their bread and enough feed for the horses and the milk cows.

On the trip from Coryell County to the Nueces Canyon, the Roberts family camped on the Divide at the head of Hackberry. Cody Roberts had stayed back in Coryell County to pay some debts. The place where the family had pitched their camp was surrounded by low hills. Dan, who was five or six years old, wandered away from the camp and climbed one of the nearby hills to look around. Will Chant, fearing he would get lost or hurt, called for him to come down, that a bear would catch him. Dan came running down the hill as fast as he could, stubbed his toe, and rolled on down the hill. Will told him not to be afraid, that there was no bear to catch him, whereupon Dan replied that he knew there was because he saw his hole and heard his horns rattle.

Another time, the family bought Dan a new pair of boots and socks. Some time after that, his mother called for him to come to her. He jumped up and asked, "Must I bring my boots and socks?"

While living at Four Mile Prairie, Joe Chant worked for Button Sanchez on a place at the mouth of Joy Hollow. Button lived in a two-story log house there. Later on, Mr. Sanchez moved to the headwaters of East Prong, and Joe worked for him there as a shepherd.

Joe remembers that he and his brother, George, and his stepfather, Cody Roberts, got the contract from the county to build a county road from the Marvin O'Bryant place on Bullhead, to Owl Hollow on the Frio prong of the Nueces. The road went up by the Card Springs ranch, and across the divide to Owl Hollow. As long as this road was in use, the old-timers always dreaded the part of the road where it climbed out of Owl Hollow onto the divide. It was known as Owl Hollow Hill, and was a very steep grade of more than a quarter of a mile in length. During Model T days, travelers often had to negotiate the last third of the hill in

reverse gear, in order to keep their cars' gas tanks on a higher level than the carburetor. In those days, the fuel tank was under the front seat, and Model T's were not then equipped with fuel pumps. Some car operators would pump the gas tank full of air, and, in that way, get the fuel from the gas tank to the carburetor of the car.

A big wedding took place in the home of Joe Roberts near Vance on February 23, 1888. Sallie Roberts, daughter of Joe Roberts, and T. J. (Tom) Reavis, were united in marriage before a large gathering of friends and neighbors. The ceremony was performed by Mark Cowan, local justice of the peace.

Back in the early days, a company of soldiers, under Captain Cummins, was stationed in a big flat across Pulliam Creek, west of Barksdale. The soldiers were camped there to protect the settlement against Indian raids, and to help keep open the military road that ran through Camp Wood and up the Nueces River on to Fort Concho and Fort McKavitt. Some of the old-timers say that about all the soldiers did while they were stationed there was to hunt deer and turkey in the surrounding territory. They killed more deer and turkey than Indians. That was the first time that the deer and turkey in that part of the country were ever thinned out. The flat where the soldiers had their camp is now known as Military Flat and the big mountain nearby is called Military Mountain.

Deer were so numerous, in those days, that it was no trouble to step out and kill a deer anywhere. Terry Hill says that his father, Ed Hill, used to hunt deer, and would keep only the hams and the hides, which he sold to the soldiers at Fort Clark. Ed Hill hunted deer a great deal with Ote Coalson. On one hunting trip with Ote, Mr. Hill, himself, killed 150 deer.

On one of his hunting trips, Mr. Hill tells about finding a deer buried under a tree. He got off his horse under a big oak tree where the deer lay, and pulled him from under the cover of dirt and trash by his horns. He looked up in the tree and saw a panther. He slipped back to his horse, got his .44 rifle, and killed the panther.

Mr. Hill was one of the best shots of his day, when shooting at a running target. Someone has said that he could kill a deer even though the deer appeared already to have disappeared over the top of a hill. Many of the deer Mr. Hill killed were shot while they were running at full speed.

While Ira Wheat was sheriff, he spent considerable time hunting for Jess Bass, a wanted man who sometimes made the rough Canyon country his hiding place. On one occasion, Wheat was after Bass with a posse of men. They passed the Ed Hill place on one of their rounds through the country, and were close on the track of their quarry, but were unable to overtake Mr. Bass, who disappeared into the mountain fastnesses near the Ed Hill ranch.

In August, 1889, Herman Fleischer was appointed postmaster for Barksdale, and the fixtures for the post office were moved into his home. This house occupied a place near the center of town, and because of its commodious size, was a gathering place for the neighborhood dances. There was a sliding partition between two of the larger rooms, which, when folded back, made a hall big enough to accommodate a rather large crowd of people. It was in the Fleischer home that many of the community dances were given.

Gus, one of Mr. Fleischer's boys, remembers one thing in particular about the old home place in Barksdale. That was the cedar picket fence his father had built around the block on which the house stood. The tops of the pickets were all cut to the same height, and a plank nailed on top of them, all the way around the fence. Gus says that he and the town boys used to have a game to see which boy could walk this fence the greatest distance without falling off.

Scuff Raney, Sam Raney's second oldest boy, recalls that his father used to let him go to mill with him on Saturdays. One day, Scuff and his daddy went down to Barksdale to have some corn ground there in the Nix mill. While the corn was being ground, Mr. Nix and Mr. Raney, who were very good friends, were engaged in a conversation. Mr. Nix had a knife, which he used to cut strings for the sacks, lying on a sack nearby. While the men were talking, Scuff took the knife and slipped it into his pocket. After a while, he and his dad went on home, and it wasn't long until Scuff showed his dad what a good knife he had found. Sam took the knife in his hand, looked at it, and agreed that it was a good knife. He said he would take care of the knife for a few days, so he put it on the mantelpiece. The next Saturday they had to go to mill again. Scuff noticed that the knife was gone from the mantelpiece, so he said he didn't want to go to town and ran off to the barn. His daddy made him go anyway. He gave Scuff the knife and told him to take it to Mr. Nix and apologize. Scuff

says that was the hardest licking his dad ever gave him.

The year 1889 was a good year in the Canyon. The rainfall that year was nearly forty inches. The country folk raised plenty of corn and feed crops, and had a large acreage planted in cotton. After the ginning season was over, Mr. Nix reported that over 500 bales had been ginned at his mill.

In 1888, Bishop Elliott, of the Episcopal Church, made a trip to the Montell community, a distance of 150 miles by stagecoach. He found some Episcopal families in Montell, and held his first service in the home of Mrs. Clark. He baptized four children at this service, one of them being Mrs. O. D. Coleman, a lifelong resident of Montell.

Shortly, the Church of the Ascension was built, under the leadership of the Reverend Richard Galbraith. The people of Montell and the vicinity gave half the money, and donations were received from friends in other parts of the United States and Texas, as well as from England, Iceland, Switzerland, and British India. The church was opened on Christmas Day, 1890. It was first called St. John's, but on May 7, 1891, it was consecrated by Bishop James S. Johnson, the Church of the Ascension. There is a churchyard in the back with a cemetery. Through the efforts of Miss Francis Courtney Baylor and Mr. Galbraith, William Waldorf Astor of New York gave the stained glass window to the church. It is said to be the most valuable and artistic in the South, ranking as the second-best glass west of the Mississippi at the time of its installation. During a coastal storm, the window was broken, but later it was repaired.

The Cox family settled at Dobb's Run near the old Dutch Battleground, in 1883. Everyone had to live near a spring, river, or a waterhole, as there were no wells here then. Everyone was in the same boat — no conveniences. They all lived in tents or built picket or log houses.

Nine children were born to Sam and Lavinia Wilkinson Cox, five sons and four daughters: Andrew J., Albert, Ezekiel, Sam, George, Ella, Emily Jane, Axy, and Lilly.

On Christmas Day in 1889, Lilly Cox was married to Jesse Thurman, when she was sixteen years old. They built a picket house on Bluff Creek near Kickapoo Spring. The house was chinked and daubed with mud and cedar bark and covered with *sacahuista* grass. The living room and bedroom combined had a floor made of 1"x12" boxing planks. The kitchen and eating room had no floor, just a

plain dirt floor. Mrs. Thurman says she was very proud of the plank floor in the living room, as she was the only one in the neighborhood to have one. They built an arbor in front of the house and covered it with brush.

Everyone made out the best they could. They had no way of getting things then, except by going to Brackettville, the nearest town. It took several days to make a trip for supplies.

They seldom called a doctor, as they had to go many miles on horseback to get one. People used simple home remedies, and if they failed, the patients very often died. Mrs. Thurman goes on to say that she was the mother of ten children, all of whom were delivered by midwives. She recalls that when one of her children was born, they sent for Grandma Roberts on Cedar Creek, who came on horseback, and stayed in the Thurman home more than a month.

Some people used kerosene lamps in those days, but most of the time they used grease lamps. These were made by putting a plaited string of cloth in a bowl of grease, all except a small part for the light; whenever they wanted to put the light out they pushed it down in the grease. It could not be blown out.

People were good to each other. All pitched in together to do the rush work, and if anybody got sick, some of the neighbors came in and stayed till they got well. People either had to walk, ride horseback, or go in a wagon, when visiting or going on a help-mission. Telephones were unheard of.

Mr. Thurman was always wanting to get the best for his family, and whenever anything new came out, he would always try to get it for his folks. The Thurmans were the first to put in a telephone in the Kickapoo settlement.

Mrs. Thurman says that, on washday, all the neighbors would meet on the river with their rub-boards, and rub out the clothes. They would then boil them in a big iron pot and hang them out to dry on bushes or on the fence.

Mrs. Thurman says her first washing machine was made of wood with a half circle made of slats fixed on the inside, and a crosspiece at the top. The operator would stand and push it back and forth to wash the clothes. It had a hand turn wringer, but Mrs. Thurman adds that she thought it was marvelous.

They had to parch their coffee and grind it themselves in a coffee mill. It was a treat for the family when they

could buy parched coffee, since watching a pan of roasting coffee, and stirring it till it was done, was quite a job.

They fought mosquitoes with smoke made from cow chips or anything else that would make a good smoke.

Mrs. Thurman kept the milk and butter in a frame box made of slats, with canvas around it, and a bucket or pan to hold water for keeping the canvas wet. They kept the water cool by keeping it in a stone jar covered with canvas, which was kept wet. She cooked on a huge fireplace. Flatrocks were placed in front of the fireplace, and the food was cooked in iron pots or skillets.

County officers in November of 1889 were John A. Barnes, county judge and county superintendent of schools; Ira Wheat, sheriff and tax collector; William Sanford, county and district clerk; M. H. Cowan, county treasurer; D. P. Dolsen, county surveyor; Sam Hough, county attorney; Perry Ellis, commissioner for precinct No. 2; Z. H. Pannell, constable for Vance.

On the 7th day of September, 1889, Barksdale had a local option election to prohibit the sale of intoxicating beverages in the precinct. There were sixty-one votes cast for prohibition and ten against. This date marked the end of saloon days in Barksdale.

Officers who held the election were William Winans, W. Wallace, Vance Walling, H. Fleischer, Nat Benton, W. B. Kirchner, and J. I. Ramsey.

Sam Raney was deputy for Ira Wheat for many years after 1888. Mr. Wheat used to call him out of bed at all hours of the night to go on the trail of lawbreakers. Sam Raney and Mr. Wheat were about the same age and very close friends. They used to chase the Thompson boys when they were on the dodge. One time Sam and Ira were passing a place where the Thompson boys were in hiding. One of the boys wanted to shoot the officers. The other one didn't, so they let them pass.

Terry Hill was born at the home place on Pulliam, in 1889. Robert Raney says that he and his father used to work together a lot out in sheep camp. He says they learned their ABC's together. Robert recalls that when they lived back on Spring Creek, his folks used to hide him and Scuff under the washpot while they were away, to keep the Indians and other varmints from finding them.

One time his folks went visiting in the home of the Blalacks, east of Barksdale. Mrs. Raney and Mrs. Blalack

went down to the garden and left the children at the house. When they came back they found Robert black in the face, and almost choked to death. The other children had stuffed his mouth full of brown sugar.

The first cemetery in Barksdale was laid off in 1889 by Bob Sweeten and John Nix. Several people had been buried on the location before, but no effort had been made to fence the place. The property was conveyed for use as a cemetery by the Butler family.

In 1889, the Ward family bought a place between Vance and Barksdale from Dr. Graham. The Wards came from Frio County. They came to the Canyon in horse-drawn wagons, and their first stop was Leakey. They rented a house there, and returned to Frio County to get their sheep. Wes and William Ward moved the sheep back to a location near Devil's Sinkhole. A Dr. Pippin hired Mr. Ward to build a house for him on the Kerrville road. Mr. Ward left a man to care for his sheep and went to work building the house for Dr. Pippin. Dr. Pippin had a son named Bud who helped with the house. After finishing the house, Mr. Ward brought his sheep on down to the head of Hackberry, and left his two boys, Ira and Hugh, there in a sheep camp. Mr. Ward came on down Hackberry and traded for a place from Ammon Billings.

The Ward family had ten children, the Ben Casey family across the river had twelve, and the George Cromeans family, just below, had seven. Dr. Graham had just moved away with his family of fourteen.

The other families in this neighborhood were the Bakers, and Lon Buck, who married a Baker girl.

Josh Burleson married Mary Baker in 1886. Mrs. Baker was a widow at the time of her marriage to Mr. Burleson, and had one child by her first husband. This child was killed when it was small, when a wagon turned over on it. Josh's first child, Jerry, was born in 1889.

In 1889, Mrs. Cebe DeGaux taught the Vance School in the community's new schoolhouse. Zac Eppler recalls that that was his first year in school. The Cody Roberts children attended that school.

Uncle Bud Yost used to tell Zac that every time he got a whipping in school, he would give him another when he got home. Zac says his sister couldn't keep anything to herself whether it was good or bad. Uncle Bud asked her about Zac's whippings, and she said that Zac got one every day. One

day Zac had a fight with Albert Wells, and the teacher started to whip them. They ran out the door, and didn't go back to school that day. They were going to put the whipping off till next day. They wanted the other boys to come out and play with them. The teacher tried to make the other boys catch Zac and Albert, but Zac says they didn't try very hard. The other boys gave out first. Finally, Albert grabbed hold of Zac and told the other boys to come get him. Zac hit him on the nose and made it bleed. Zac says he wasn't mad at him; just didn't want to get his whipping that day. He says the boys at that school never did get out of a whipping. His Uncle Bud didn't give him a whipping when he got home. He always gave Zac three days of grace, and by that time he had forgotten it.

One time, on the schoolground at Vance, Andy Welch and Dee Wallace got into an argument about a ball game. Dee hit Andy over the head with a baseball bat. The two were practically grown men at the time and they quit school. A Mr. McIntyre was teaching there then.

The Vance people all called Cody Roberts "Long Joe," and Joe Roberts, the father of Jess, "Short Joe." "Long Joe" was pretty tall, and Jess's dad was short and thin.

Zac Eppler recalls that when he was about seven years old he helped his Uncle Bud and some other men drive a bunch of hogs from Vance to Leahey. They had about 300 head in the herd, and stayed one night at the Dave Thompson place. Lum Thumpson says that they threw out at least fifty bushels of corn to those hogs that night. They went on next day to Leahey with the hogs. They didn't have any platform scales, so they weighed a little hog, a middle-sized one, and a big one, and got the average. They sold the hogs to A. G. Vogel for 4¢ per pound.

The Joe Burris family lived on Bullhead in the late '80's. Mr. Burris was a farmer by trade, and improved the place on Bullhead where his family lived.

Zac Eppler remembers a time when he was just a kid, when he and Jim Wallace and some other boys were in swimming near Vance and they were playing 'gator. Jim Wallace went under and didn't come up. Zac hollered to Frank to get Jim out, but Frank wasn't able to find him, so Zac dived down and got Jim out. He threw him down on the bank with his head downhill so the water would run out of his lungs. In the meantime, one of the other boys had gone and told Captain Wallace that Jim had drowned. By

the time Captain Wallace and the crowd got there, Jim was sitting up.

In 1890, the W. H. Harris family moved to Edwards County and settled near Rocksprings. They later lived in Rocksprings in the west part of town, and the street they lived on was named Harris Street for the Harris family.

The parents of Eugene Lovelady came to Edwards County in 1889. They came into the country in horse-drawn wagons, and drove a herd of sheep from Bell County. Their first residence was where the Frank Cloudt family once lived. The Lovelady family moved into town after the county seat was changed to Rocksprings, in order to send the children to school. The schoolhouse was located across the street from where the Alamo Lumber Company is now. A strong rock wall was built around a frame house. There were two teachers, a Mr. Vaughn and a Mr. Cole. At first, they had no bell, and Mr. Vaughn would call school. He had a very strong voice, and one could hear him a mile away. Later they got a bell, and it was used as a signal for many years to call the children to school.

After the new school building was put up, Mr. Sanford was the first teacher.

When the Loveladys came to Edwards County, they had to herd and shear their own sheep. They used hand shears then, and although Eugene was only seven years old, he could shear sheep when his older brothers, John and Mack, caught them and tied them.

One year, they wintered their sheep on Devil's River. Mack Lovelady was eleven years old then, and Mr. Lovelady and the boys lived in a camp. One time they got low on food, so Mr. Lovelady put Mack on a horse and sent him to Rocksprings for food. It took him nearly all day to get to Rocksprings, and it was late when he started back to camp. He was afraid he would lose his way, so he hobbled his horse and spent the night fifteen miles from camp. The next morning he couldn't find his horse, so he put the grub on his back and walked into camp. Then he went back to find his horse, and met him coming up the road toward camp, hobbles and all.

People didn't think anything of walking fifteen or twenty miles, in those days. When the Lovelady family lived where the Marshall ranch is now, they had a white man herding sheep for them. He and Eugene wanted to come into town

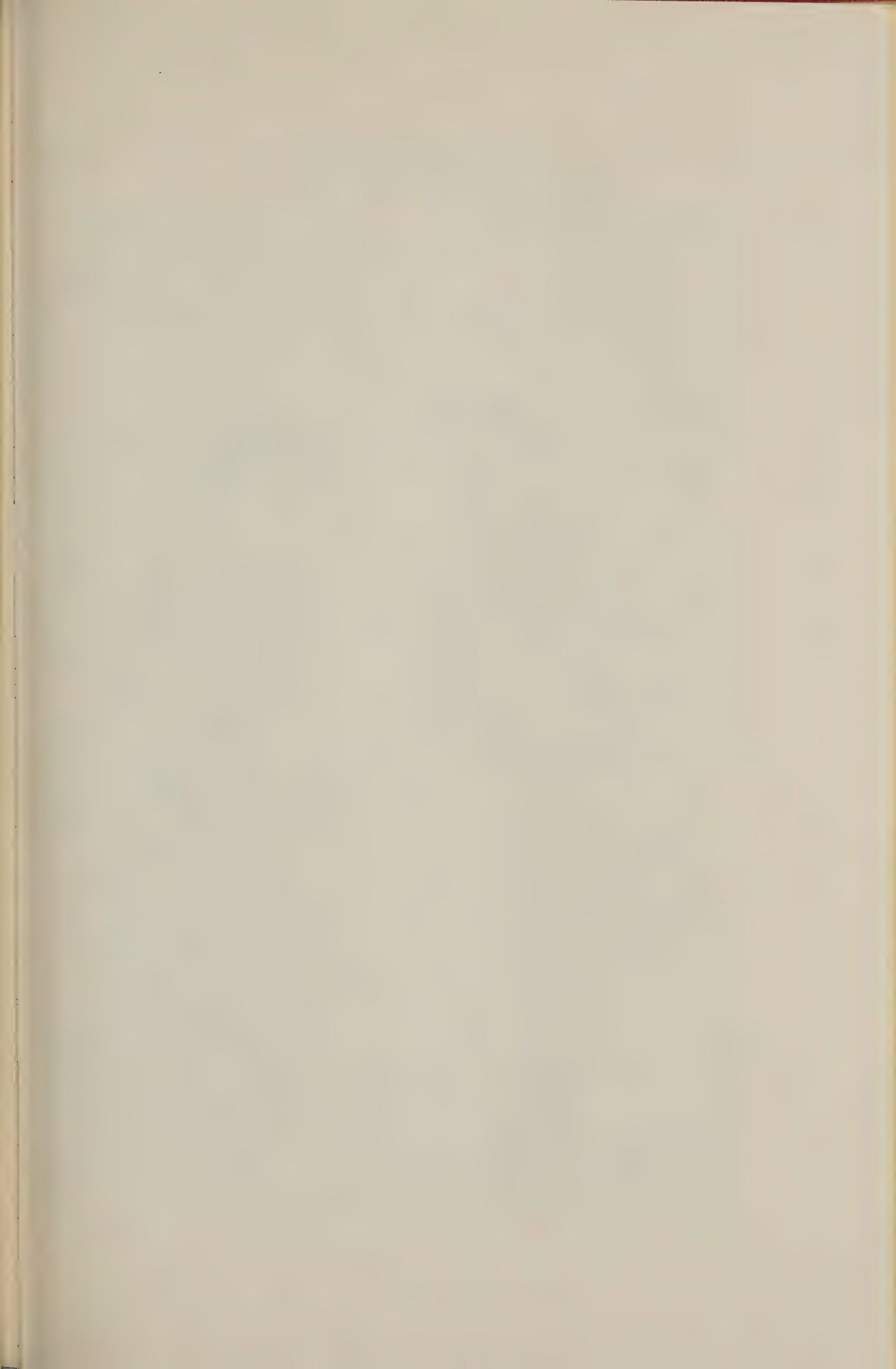
one day, so they just set out and walked the twenty-one miles to town.

The Loveladys used to have an old horse called Charlie. He was a pacing horse, and all three of the boys could ride him at the same time. Old Man Solomon wanted to buy the horse, so Mr. Lovelady sent John to find him. John didn't look very hard, and came in without Charlie. Mr. Solomon stayed awhile and just as he was getting ready to leave, old Charlie came tearing up to the ranch for water, his mane and tail flying. Mr. Solomon led him off with all the boys bawling like calves.

Old Man Ad Harris had four bee trees. He told Mr. Lovelady that, if he would cut the trees and get the honey for him, he could have the bees. Mr. Lovelady and the boys rode over to cut the trees. They got the honey for Mr. Harris, put the bees in four sacks, and carried them home on their horses.

One spring, the Lovelady boys lambled their sheep out west of town, and while there they killed twelve rattlesnakes around the camp. There were plenty of wolves and snakes there then.

Mr. Lovelady hauled freight from Kerrville for a number of years. He bought two freight teams, eight mules, and eight horses. They freighted thousands of pounds of goods from Kerrville to Rocksprings. Eugene remembers one trip they made for bread, lemons, ice, and beer. They loaded up and made it as far as the Marshall ranch, and it began to rain and they couldn't move the wagons a foot. They piled all the bread under the wagon sheets and waited until John came with the other team. They finally got to town with the bread, but the barbecue that was to have taken place on July 4th was held on July 7th.





CHAPTER V

The Gay 'Nineties—1890-1900

In 1890, A. W. Ackerly was appointed road overseer for the Barksdale precinct. Good roads were becoming more necessary as the country settled up, and petitions for county roads were filed regularly with the county commissioners court after the year 1900.

County officers to take the oath of office in 1890 were: J. M. Hunter, county judge; W. M. Sanford, county clerk; M. H. Cowan, county treasurer; Ira L. Wheat, sheriff and tax collector; C. C. Dugat, county tax assessor; John A. Barnes, county surveyor; A. W. Haley, hide and sheep inspector; C. H. Kirchner, commissioner precinct No. 2; Sam Hough, county attorney.

In 1890, Pleas Jones helped Bob Turner drive a bunch of cattle from Sonora to Brady. He says they had about 1100 head of poor territory cows, and they calved all the way. They packed the calves in the calf wagon.

On another trip, Pleas helped Ira Wheat carry a bunch of cattle from the Canyon country to Brady City.

When Pleas was a young man, he used to ride up to Four Mile Prairie above Vance to see Lydia Roberts. All the Roberts and Chant girls dipped snuff, and they got after Pleas to take a dip. Pleas finally took a dip, and he says he saw Bullhead Mountain pass around the horizon at least a dozen times before he recovered from the effects of the snuff.

In 1890, heavy rains put the Nueces River on a big rise. Pulliam Creek got especially high. The house of Sam Raney was almost washed away by the swollen flood. Not long after the rise, Sam moved the house farther north on the hill where the Raney house now stands.

In the fall of 1890, the Raney children, Robert and Scuff, went to a school near Coats Mountain by the George Taylor place. Cebe DeGaux was the teacher that year, and

Robert remembers that among others, the Taylors, the Wallaces, and the Woods went to that school.

Mr. DeGaux, a dark-complexioned fellow, used to sit at his desk, whittling heart cedar, dipping snuff, and teaching the kids their ABC's. Robert says that he was a good teacher.

In 1890, the Lon Welch family lived at Vance. Lon Welch drove the mail from Vance to Montell. The family lived across the road from where the Albert Wells filling station now stands, and just north of the Captain Wallace store.

In the 1890's, Millard Parkerson ran many cattle in the country between Vance and Barksdale. He used to buy cattle too, for ranchmen in the Uvalde country. In the spring of 1890, Parkerson was buying lots of cattle, and was bunching and road-branding them in the flats near the Cromeans place. Mrs. Frank Casey says her mother, Mrs. George Cromeans, used to cook for Parkerson's cow outfit. She remembers that sometimes the flats would be full of cowboys. She says that Parkerson had no pens where the cattle could be held to road-brand them, but the men had to rope each animal to place the brand on it.

Mrs. George Cromeans cooked for thirty-five or forty men on those roundups. Many times, she did the cooking out in the sun. The men all wanted their meat fried, and Mrs. Cromeans would cook biscuits and fry meat for the whole crew.

Some of the cowboys who worked for Parkerson in those days were Jess Roberts, George Cromeans, Butler and Abner Alexander, Johnny Moore, Will Parkerson, Riley and Bud Ridgeway, Phil Waddell and many others.

Guards were stationed every night to keep the cattle from stampeding.

In 1890, Mrs. Viny Wells was postmistress at Vance. Herman Fleischer held the office in Barksdale, and Elizabeth Margaret Clark was postmistress in Montell.

Rumors of a new town on the Divide were beginning to circulate in 1890. Bob Sweeten, one of the promoters of the new town, had completed a water well on the proposed townsite in 1889. Rube Stewart, member of another pioneer Canyon family, was also instrumental in promoting the proposed new town. People in the Divide country complained of having to go too far to the county seat. Others said that Leakey was not a suitable location for the county seat, because half of the town was in Edwards County and the

other half in Bandera County. Of course, the people at Leakey objected vigorously whenever the subject of changing the county seat came up, and even long years after the seat of government was moved to Rocksprings, some of the old feeling of ill will and resentment still exists among the old-timers.

In the 1890's, a severe depression hit the country and was severely felt in the Canyon and Divide areas. Grover Cleveland, the Democratic president, was in office, and his party stood for a low tariff. The wool and mohair growers of Edwards County were seriously hurt by the subsequent fall in wool prices and other ranch products. The price of wool went down to 5¢ per pound. Shepherders could be had for \$8.00 per month, to herd the stock in the open country. Cattle dropped to \$12.00 per head.

Mrs. Joe Beck states in her memoirs that the Beck family had over 50,000 lbs. of wool stored with Schreinners at Kerrville. When the wool finally sold, the amount received did not pay the cost of storage, and the Becks actually had to pay out several hundred dollars of their own money. Seeing an expected income of several thousand dollars turn into a net loss made Republicans out of the older members of the Beck family. In addition to that, they couldn't sell their cattle at any price. During those dark days, the family lived on mutton and biscuits. Mr. Beck wouldn't eat cornbread.

In 1890, John Nix decided to install a waterworks for the town of Barksdale. Prior to that time, the people of the town carried water from a spring under the hill below town. Accordingly, Mr. Nix erected a large cypress water tank on top of the hill near his cotton gin. A gasoline engine was installed over a well at his home place. The water was pumped into the tank, and from there, lateral pipes were laid to supply the water needs of the community.

In 1890, the John Reagan family moved to Pulliam and located in the flats across the river from Sam Raney's place. Mrs. Laura Sattathite, one of the John Reagan girls, says it was a fine country around their new home, with big springs and an abundance of wild game: deer, hogs, turkey and quail, and still some buffalo. There were wild fruits such as plums, cherries, mulberries, haws, strawberries, and grapes. There were wild greens like mustard, turnips, lettuce, pepper, onions, polk salad, nuts, and lots of wild honey. The Reagans' first teacher, after they moved to their new ranch, was Cebe DeGaux, who taught till Christmas, and Miss Annie Ramsey

finished the school term. The pupils all loved Miss Ramsey, and that year the people built a new schoolhouse with new lumber, glass windows, and comfortable seats. Mrs. Sattathite says that Miss Ramsey moved the children into the new building one day at noon, and that night it burned down and all the children's books with it. The children had to finish the term in the old building until a new one could be put up. The George Taylor children attended this school: Jim, Vesta, Nadine, Will and John, Robert and Scuff Raney, Gardner and Linnie Franks, Austin Allison, J. T. and Steve Wallace, John, Sam and Robert Sattathite, and the John Reagan children, Monroe, Will, Laura, and Bud.

When Jim Wallace attended the school in Vance, he says he fought nearly every day. One time he and Burt Brown had a fight and Jim caught Burt in the stomach with his teeth. Jim had never been able to whip Burt, although they had fought many times at school. On this occasion Captain Wallace came running from the store to separate the two. Miss Tommy Brown, the teacher, said "No, let them fight," since Burt had whipped Jim so many times before. Jim says he whipped Burt, and Burt admitted he would stay whipped for a while.

Just before the John Reagan family moved to the place above the Sam Raney's, they were camped for a few months on Ed Wall Hollow. They moved from that place to Pulliam about the time Old Man Hale was killed on the river near the Bud Pullen ranch. Mr. Hale had a bee apiary on a little place on Cedar Creek. Old-timers say he was called out one night and killed. His body lay for several days before being found. John Reagan and John Pope volunteered to put the body away, so they dug a grave on the spot where he died and laid him to rest there.

A. W. Ackerly put up a two-story building in Barksdale in 1890. This building was located across the street from his blacksmith shop, and was used for several years as a rooming house. After the various lodges were organized in Barksdale, the upper floor of this building was used as a meeting place for the Masonic Lodge.

Albert Wells says he went to his first school in 1890, taught by a Mr. Ward. The next year a Mr. Smothers taught in Vance.

Hugh Ward relates some of his experiences while tending his father's sheep on the Divide. He and Ira were left in a camp there when the family moved to Hackberry. They

used to be bothered with panthers and snakes a lot. Hugh says that a huge panther jumped out of a tree one night, right into their camp. Another time, Ira was out some distance from the camp, and ran into a big bear that was crossing the canyon. The bear climbed up in a cherry tree and was eating cherries. He came down, and right across the canyon toward Ira. Ira ran a mile or two down the canyon, and when he reached camp, fell panting at Hugh's feet.

One time in sheep camp, Hugh had a big rising in his ear. The pain was about to drive him crazy, and he remembers that Ira sat up all night putting hot poultices on the ear. About morning, the rising burst, and Hugh says he never got so much relief before in all his life.

For food, the boys would kill goats and sheep and dry the meat. They kept it stored in a flour sack. On one occasion, the boys noticed that some of the meat was disappearing, and they finally discovered that a little speckled polecat was coming down the rope and getting the meat.

While the Bud Field family was living at the Bates place on Pulliam, they had a picket pen where they penned the goats at night. One night they heard a noise in the pen. They went to investigate, and found a panther in the pen with a goat he had killed. The panther dropped the kid, jumped the fence, and got away. He came back the next night and got another goat. He got away with a grown goat that night, and climbed a bluff near the house. The Fields had two dogs which crowded the panther so close that he had to drop the goat. Mr. Field had a .44 Winchester with four shells. He followed the dogs on the trail of the panther. The panther slapped one of the dogs and Mr. Field left the dog for dead. The other dog treed the panther several times, but Mr. Field could never get close enough for a shot. They finally put him in a cave after an all-night chase, but they couldn't get him out. Mr. Field cut a pole about fifteen feet long, and set fire to some cedar bark on one end. He shoved it back in the cave. The panther would put out the fire by slapping it. Mr. Field kept this up until the panther was quiet. Then he crawled back in the cave and pulled the panther out. He had smoked the panther to death. He went back to the ranch and got his horse. When he loaded the cat on the horse, its tail dragged the ground on one side, and its head on the other. The panther measured nine feet long.

Later the Field family moved to the place on Little

Hackberry that was their home for more than forty years. Mr. Field improved the place and raised his family there. Some of their neighbors were the Hamricks, the Broomfields, the Wallaces, the Sam Fields, the Allisons, and the Whitehurst family.

Doug Coalson says the first school he went to on Cedar Creek was at a place between Bud Pullen's and Sam Raney's. Zeke Cox was his first teacher. He went to school there with the Webb children, Proc and Lon, and the Raney boys, Robert and Scuff. One day, Proc and Scuff were fussing, and Proc shot Scuff's horse through the neck, just creasing him. The horse dropped as if dead, but got up soon and staggered off. Proc said he did it just for fun.

Doug said they walked from their place below Half Moon Prairie when the weather was cold. On warm days, they rode horseback.

During the same school term, Birtle Welch and Proc Webb hemmed a big steer against the fence and made him tear down part of the fence.

Joe Roberts bought his place above Vance from a Mr. Galbraith, a Catholic priest. He used to preach some in Vance. His son worked for a bank in Kerrville.

Rocksprings became the county seat of Edwards County in 1891. After Bob Sweeten and his associates completed the water well there in 1889, several families moved to the spot and built homes. When the town became the seat of county government, a small nucleus of a settlement had already been located on the site.

The election to decide whether or not the county seat would be moved from Leakey was held on April 14, 1891. The election was held in Rocksprings under a grove of scrub live oak. There were 373 votes cast in favor of the proposition in the following places: Leakey — 74 votes; Frank's place — 104 votes; Rocksprings — 195 votes.

County officials at the time were J. M. Hunter, who had defeated D. D. Thompson by one vote in the November 1890 election for county judge; Sam Hough, county attorney; W. M. Sanford, county and district clerk; Ira L. Wheat, sheriff and tax collector; C. E. Dugat defeated C. E. Franks by two votes for the office of tax assessor; A. W. Haley, hide and animal inspector; John Eaton, commissioner precinct No. 1; C. H. Kirchner, commissioner precinct No. 2; H. Schiethelm, commissioner precinct No. 3; W. M. Bradford, commissioner precinct No. 4.

After the election that decided to move the county seat to Rocksprings, the Wallace and Stewart store was used as a courthouse until June, 1891. On June 8, 1891, the court ordered advertising of specifications for a two-story courthouse of wood or stone. Davey and Schott of Kerrville were awarded the contract on August 12, 1891, at a consideration of \$18,000.

The jail cage was moved from Leakey to Rocksprings by Gustave Dietert of Kerrville, as ordered by the court on July 13, 1891. At that same term of court, the courthouse at Leakey was ordered sold at private sale for not less than \$450.

Joseph R. Sweeten was appointed postmaster of the new town of Rocksprings, July 3, 1891.

The county records were moved from Leakey to Rocksprings in a safe on a wagon owned by T. J. Reavis. Men went by horseback to Leakey, anticipating trouble and prepared to fight if necessary. Some of those men were Bob Sweeten, Joe Roberts, T. J. Reavis, Charlie Cupples, and Rube Stewart. County seat elections always caused trouble, and frequently there were killings.

In 1891, almost everybody in Rocksprings lived in tents. The first churches met in tents. Mrs. A. E. Mayes recalls when the members of the Church of Christ first met for services. T. H. B. Lovelady, Mrs. Mayes' father, was a devoted Christian, and the first thing he did when he moved to a new place, was to get a church started. He got five members to meet in the Loveladys' tent. They were Mrs. Ira Wheat, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Sweeten, and Mr. and Mrs. Lovelady. Late in the fall, Mr. Lovelady heard Bro. John S. Durst at Junction, and he got Bro. Durst to come to Rocksprings to hold a meeting. He preached several days, and Mrs. Charlie Cupples was converted. There was no place to baptize, so Bro. Durst took his hack and Mr. Lovelady took his wagon, and they went to Pulliam, a stream of water near Barksdale, where Mrs. Cupples was baptized. It took three days to make the trip, as they had to work the road most of the way.

The Commissioners Court, at their July, 1891, meeting, began the work of dividing the county into school districts.

In the August meeting, a petition was presented to the court for a road from Vance up Hackberry to Rocksprings.

Cedar Creek was a more thickly populated community in 1891, than it is today. Mrs. Ethel Pope remembers the

Winans', the Stouts, the Weltys, the Chisums, and the Coalsons. Mrs. Pope says that her family would work hard all the week in the fields, and on Saturdays everybody would take their baths and go somewhere to stay all night. The Greens very often went to visit the Chisums and the Weltys. She says they all had fun. They would play ball and pitch horseshoes. These visits usually lasted through Sundays. Mrs. Pope says people didn't have much in those days, but didn't need much to make them happy.

In 1891, the people on Pulliam and Cedar Creek built a new schoolhouse below the Bud Pullen place. Robert Raney says his first teacher there was Alice Burditt. The boys used to play fox and hounds at recesses and the noon hour. One day, Frank Winans and Scuff stayed out all evening. One was the fox and the other was the hound. Roberts says they probably got a thrashing the next day. The Webb children who attended this school were Lon, Proc, Fred, Alice, Ora, Ollie, and Jerd.

Robert says he and Proc Webb used to have a good many fights at school.

The Al Haley family left the Canyon in the early '90's. They stopped at the Sam Raney place on Pulliam on their way out of the country.

In 1891, Frank S. Gray was married to Miss Nina Terry at the bride's home at Vance. Rev. Martin, a Baptist preacher from Leakey, performed the ceremony. Best men were Frank Dolsen and Mack Sanford. Bridesmaids were Misses Julia Carruthers and Pearl Alexander. Mr. Gray was one of the four brothers who ranched at the head of Hackberry. Miss Terry was a sister of Will Terry, the efficient deputy sheriff of the Vance community. A host of friends were there to wish the couple a long and happy life.

In 1892, J. R. Sweeten gave two acres of land in Rocksprings for use as a cemetery.

In April, 1892, the Commissioners Court of Edwards County met and, among other business transacted, ordered the survey and the establishment of the county line between Kerr and Edwards counties.

Officers elected for the two-year term beginning January 1892, in Edwards County, were: J. M. Hunter, county judge; W. M. Sanford, county clerk; Ira L. Wheat, sheriff and tax collector; W. P. Pullen, county treasurer; C. E. Franks, tax assessor; James Buswell, county surveyor; S. M. Wooten,

hide and animal inspector; L. M. Pullen, commissioner precinct No. 2.

The John Davis family moved from Coke County in 1892, and settled on the East Prong of the Nueces above Vance. They built their first residence at Buffalo Waterhole near Joy Hollow. The family stayed there awhile, and bought a place from Wiley Welch on the head of the river.

Ed Custer moved to the Canyon with his parents in 1892, and bought the T. W. Uzzell place on Miller Creek, west of Camp Wood. The Custers came from Bee County, and were ranch people.

Ed Custer states that he was one year old when he came to Texas. He attended his first school at Pipe Creek in Bander County. While he was still a very young man, he left home with a cousin, riding horseback and leading a pack horse. He first worked at Big Springs as a range rider. In 1889 he worked for W. W. Watson to help drive 2000 head of cattle to Hunniwell, Kansas. He followed the herd up the trail through Indian Territory to the railroad in Kansas. After the cattle were sold, Ed returned on horseback in April, 1889. He worked until 1895 in Bee County, and came to Edwards County in 1892 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Custer. There were four boys in the Custer family: Edward (Ed), Alex, Will and Marion. (Marion died in the Philippines at the close of the Spanish-American War.)

One of Ed's first jobs, after coming to the Canyon, was working for A. W. Ackerly in his blacksmith shop in Barksdale. He worked there several months, and gained some valuable experience in mending wagons and farm machinery, and in shoeing horses.

While Mr. Stillwell was living on his ranch east of Barksdale, he trained a colt of his own. He named the colt "Wonder." The horse was later matched in a race against "Red Cloud," a widely known racing animal. Mr. Stillwell's horse led "Red Cloud" at first, but when he got even with the stalls, which were about midway of the track, he turned off and headed for the stables. Mr. Stillwell had sold the horse to Dee Wallace, and Bud Ridgeway was riding him.

Rangers were a great help in stamping out lawlessness in Edwards County in the early days. John Gilliland, a son-in-law to Old Man Kuykendahl, served as a Ranger in this country for several years. Kiawa Jones was another Ranger whose assignments of duty frequently brought him into the Edwards County area.

Among the early day ranchmen in the Cedar Creek country was a man by the name of Blanchett. Mr. Blanchett also operated a mercantile business in Barksdale in the early '80's. At first, he was in partnership with a Mr. Countz, but the partnership was later dissolved and Mr. Countz moved away to the Del Rio country. Mr. Blanchett operated the business for a while, and then sold out to Rhodes and Sweeten. Jim Pope worked for the firm of Blanchett and Countz, and freighted in lumber to build one of the first lumber houses to be built in Barksdale.

Mr. Blanchett's headquarters ranch was a mile or two east of White Mountain on Cedar Creek, a country owned by the Coalson family for a number of years. Mr. Blanchett ran sheep in that area and was at one time associated with Dan Taylor in the ranching business.

Nic Coalson had his headquarters at White Mountain for a long time after his children had married off. Ote Coalson married Teeny Welty, a neighborhood girl, and lived at the Half Moon Prairie for many years.

Nic Coalson always kept a string of hounds to hunt the cats and other varmints in the vicinity of his White Mountain ranch. Doug Coalson, one of his grandsons, says Nic always kept his money tied up in a rag, hidden in a crack of his house. Mr. Coalson was the old-type frontiersman, and didn't like to be hemmed in. In the late '90's, he sold his ranch to Link Gillespie, and he and Lawrence Parsons moved to New Mexico with a big bunch of horses. Nic died a few years later in Old Mexico.

The Taylor and Blanchett partnership controlled a broad strip of country on the head of Cedar Creek. The men built miles of brush drift-fence to hold their sheep and cattle, and the remains of these old brush fences can still be seen in the region north and west of Painted Bluff.

John Reagan bought the Blanchett ranch when the Blanchett family moved out of the country.

Mamie Powers says she went to school to a Dr. Colvey in Barksdale. She studied Latin and algebra under Dr. Colvey, and had music lessons from Miss Thomas, a granddaughter of Dr. Colvey. A Miss Ethridge also taught in this school.

Dr. Oatman, Mrs. Mamie Powers' grandfather, was a retired dentist. In the early '90's, he hired men to buy steers for him in the Canyon area, and hired Ed Custer to feed them for him. Dr. Oatman had heard some good reports

on the healthful climate of the Nueces Canyon, and was making plans to build a home in Barksdale and retire there.

In 1892, Annie Ramsey taught the school in Vance. Albert Wells says he attended that school. One day he was playing with Zac Eppler near the home of Uncle Bud Yost in Vance. Zac got into some kind of meanness, which wasn't characteristic of Zac at all, and Aunt Lutie came out and began to give Zac a good thrashing. Zac's dog came on the scene about that time, and not wanting his young master harmed, caught Aunt Lutie by the coattail. Albert says she took out for the house all in a flurry.

Zac used to have a little pony that would rear up when its rider laid a hand on the pony's hip. One day Zac was making him kick up and Uncle Bud came along.

"Come here, young man," called Uncle Bud, in tones of mock severity.

"If you want me," replied Zac, "come and get me."

Uncle Bud rode on his way without further word. There was a fence between the two that extended some distance in both directions.

Uncle Bud and Aunt Lutie were Zac and Ella Eppler's grandparents. Zac and Ella lived with them until they were grown and married.

Zeke Cox taught the public school in Barksdale in 1892. Jim Grantland remembers going to school to him that term.

Soon after Captain Wallace moved to Vance, he married the Vance postmistress, Mrs. Vina Wells, at which time he took over the office of postmaster. Lee Wallace didn't move with his parents to Vance when the Wallace family left Barksdale, but moved to Rocksprings instead, where he went into a partnership business under the firm name of Wallace and Stewart.

In 1892, Dan Colwell's mother was killed in Junction, Texas, when the end-gate of the wagon in which she was riding came loose, throwing her out of the vehicle and under the wheels. The wheels of the wagon passed over her body. The Colwells were early settlers in the Hackberry community.

On September 2, 1892, George T. May was appointed postmaster for Rocksprings.

One of the first people to be buried in the Rocksprings cemetery was a Mr. Sands, who was murdered by his wife.

Mrs. Sands' case was one of the first murder cases to be tried in Rocksprings.

In 1892, the John Pope family began the construction of a new dwelling on their ranch west of Barksdale. An interesting feature of this old Pope home was that it was rebuilt from the logs of the Dab Boales saloon at Dixie, which operated there in the '70's and '80's. John Pope and his son, Jim, plastered the log house inside and out with adobe dirt and lime. The first shingles were of oak board, which they made by riving them. The ceiling beams were just the natural cedar logs. All nails used were the old-fashioned square nails, commonly used in that early day. The first log house occupied by the Pope family, from 1879 to 1894, was built by the Barksdale family a number of years before the Popes came to the country. The Pope pre-emption was a part of what was originally the large Barksdale ranch. The eight-acre field near the old house was the Barksdale cowpen, which corraled thousands of the Barksdale longhorn cattle.

Jim Pope, who helped his father in the construction of his new home, tells some interesting experiences that happened to him in the early days.

When only a lad of twelve, in 1880, he went to Pecos on the Devil's River, where he went to work for Dr. John Countz. He herded Dr. Countz's goats. He stayed with the goats day and night and slept in camp on a pallet.

One night while he was asleep in the camp, a pet kid that slept with him on the pallet was carried off by a panther. Two nights later he heard the goats bawl. He had these goats on an island in the Devil's River. Jim jumped up and ran out and saw a large panther carrying off a grown goat. He saw two small panthers following her. Jim was unarmed, but in a few days a fellow came along and gave him an old gun and just one cartridge. About two days afterward, a panther came along and got in with the goats. Jim had an old sheep dog that ran the panther up on a bluff nearby. He was making for a cave in that bluff. Jim got to within about fifteen feet of the cave, and shot him. The panther jumped at him. Jim and the dog and the panther all went over the bluff together in a pile.

Soon after this, an old man named Wofford from Del Rio came out to Jim's goat camp and begged him to go home. This man told Jim if Jim's father didn't come and get him, the panther was going to kill him. He then quit

working for Countz and worked for Wofford about three months.

Mr. Jim Pope tells about an experience he had while carrying the mail from Del Rio to the stage stand at the mouth of the Pecos. He was carrying the mail on horseback, and would meet another carrier at the Pecos Station, where he would turn it over and start his return trip. The station was located where the Pecos highway bridge is located now.

On one of those trips at night, Jim saw a large black object in the road that looked like an Indian or a large man. Jim thought that it was an Indian, and that the Indian was going to attack him. The moon was shining but he couldn't see very well. To be safe, he took a shot at him, and went on toward the Pecos. On the way, he met two men and he told them that he thought he had killed an Indian.

The next day, the men went back with Jim, and found that he had killed a big black bear. That was in 1881 and the Indians were plentiful then in the border country.

That same year, Jim met General Bullis for the first time. Bullis came to his camp from Fort Clark with forty Seminoles. He had been in Mexico with his troop of Seminole scouts, and had killed an entire band of eighty-one Lipan warriors. Bullis had a squaw and a papoose with him, and he said that he and his men had killed all except one and he thought that that Indian had been mortally wounded, as he had fallen over a high bluff.

Late in the year of 1881, Jim went to work for James Sinclair, an uncle of Upton Sinclair.

Mr. Pope was elected hide and animal inspector for Edwards County in 1892.

T. S. Pickens established a newspaper in Rocksprings in 1892.

The John Pope home, begun in 1892 and finished in 1894, was a large story-and-a-half log house just across the flat from the old Pope home. It was a typical home of the times, with a stairway on the outside, topped by a small balcony, entering the second story. This old home is still in a fair state of preservation, and stands as a testimony of the courage and the hardy spirit of this pioneer family.

In 1891, Robert Dee Sweeten returned from a trail drive to visit with his parents in Rocksprings. He met Birdie Harris at a neighborhood dance. In those days, the young

people thought nothing of riding twenty-five or thirty or even fifty miles to a dance. In 1892, on another visit of "Bob," this time returning from Arizona, the couple became engaged, but it was not until December, 1894, that they were married.

Their first home was where the Baptist Church now stands. The next year they moved to a ranch on Dry Creek near Barksdale. Three daughters were born to them there.

In 1893, J. M. Reddick came to Edwards County. Mr. Reddick was the son of a wealthy Mississippi plantation owner, and had come through the Civil War with the loss of one arm and the memory of having fought for a lost cause. Penniless, but well-educated, he decided to come to the new frontier, Texas, and to try his fortunes in that undeveloped empire. Mr. Reddick became a schoolteacher by profession, and taught schools over a large part of Texas. He finally made his way to Edwards County, where his qualifications as a schoolmaster soon placed him in demand. He taught one of his first schools in Edwards County at Vance. He was a stern disciplinarian, his pedagogy being of the old school. He was very proficient in mathematics, and his services as a teacher in that field were in demand.

Emzy Tabor recalls in his memoirs that his family moved to Edwards County when he was a lad, just five years old, and that, for two years, the family lived eighteen miles northwest of Rocksprings at a body of water called Ray Lake. The family's first home was a canvas tent with a brush fence around it, and the water fountain was an old barrel with one end knocked out, having a thin cloth stretched over it so that wiggletails that happened to be in the water could be strained out.

Emzy states that he saw the first barbed wire fence that was ever built in Edwards County, and at that same lake, where his family was camped, he saw the cowmen shoot the water keg from under the sheepmen, and witnessed the ranchmen herding their flocks with six-shooters.

The first deer Emzy ever saw was standing under a large tree on the spot where the Edwards County courthouse now stands. The first squirrel he ever saw was eating the first pecan he ever saw in a tree on the West Prong of the Nueces now owned by the Thurman family, and on that ranch he saw his first bear and his first panther.

Emzy recalls the first time district court was held in Rocksprings. He was a very small boy at the time, possibly

nine years old. Emzy's father lived on Bluff Creek, and he and several other men living in that vicinity on the West Prong had to attend court. They didn't put up at hotel, but took their pack horses along, together with a sack of bread, some bacon, and a frying pan, and they took Emzy along to keep the cattle away from their camp while they were attending court.

One night while they were all asleep, an old cow slipped into the camps and got away with one of Mr. Tabor's socks. The next day, Mr. Tabor and Emzy went into the McDonald and French store and Mr. Tabor asked Mr. French for a pair of cotton socks. Mr. French pulled down a pair. After looking at them awhile, Mr. Tabor asked what they were worth, whereupon Mr. French informed him that they were ten cents, and Mr. Tabor then informed him that the same socks were selling for eight cents in Brackett. "Yes," Mr. French said, "but you must remember that the freight is much higher here, and that is why we must get more money for socks than they do at Brackett."

Right then and there Emzy says he began to think about the freighting business, for if freight was that high on a pair of socks, he felt he could make big money running a freight line to Rocksprings, and longed to become a man so that he might get rich hauling socks to Rocksprings. That dream later came true, but it is another part of our story.

The Stieber family moved from their ranch near Barksdale to Rocksprings, soon after the county seat of government was moved there. Rocksprings was just a village at the time, there being only two stores in the town, one operated by McDonald, Finch, and Warren Company, and the other by the Carson family. The water well, located near the courthouse square, was the center of activity. Mr. and Mrs. Stieber bought land near the center of town, and were the first to have water piped to their property. Mr. Stieber opened a boot shop, and was known far and wide for his craftsmanship.

The G. H. Brown family moved to Edwards County in 1893. The Browns were ranch people and took up land on the Divide.

Ab Benton moved to the Divide country in the early '90's after having lived in the Barksdale settlement eight or ten years. Mr. Benton engaged in the ranching business near Rocksprings and was county treasurer for Edwards County for thirteen years, from 1898-1910.

Julian J. Gill was the first druggist in the town of Rocksprings. He came to Edwards County in the early 1890's and put up the first drugstore, which he later sold to Street Gilmer. Mr. Gill also did some ranching on the Sam Henry ranch, and taught school one year in Rocksprings.

In recalling his experiences as druggist during those days, he says that 1000 grains of calomel would last about a month. On one occasion, a customer had purchased medicine put up in capsules. He returned the empty capsules to the druggist, explaining that he just couldn't swallow those capsules.

The S. A. Henry family moved to Edwards County in the early '90's, and located on a place south of Rocksprings, where members of the family ranched for many years.

Horse racing was one of the principal forms of entertainment of the early settlers. Nearly every ranchman owned at least one fast pony, and a few ranchmen specialized in breeding racing stock. Some of these breeders had special trainers to take care of their horses. Old Man Stillwell, who came into the country with the Gormans, was an outstanding horse trainer. Dab Boales was another of the old-timers who spent a lot of time at the race tracks. Jim Wallace used to work for the Parkerson boys, and rode race horses for them for a number of years. Franklin Wallace was another great rider, and it is said that he was an honest rider who was never known to throw a race. Johnny Coalson and Hal Pannell were other race horse men, and never was there a big race meet held in the county but that some member of the Thurman family was present to match the fine racing animals of that family with any and all comers.

Nat Benton taught the Barksdale School in 1893.

At the 1893 spring session of the Edwards County Commissioners Court, it was ordered by the court that the line between Edwards County and Sutton County be established.

John A. Barnes was the postmaster for Barksdale in 1893.

On July 18, 1893, J. B. Chandler put in a water system for Rocksprings. Early owners and operators of the system were L. B. Herrington, and Norvell and Bunton.

Rube Stewart put up the first hotel in Rocksprings in 1893.

W. R. Burt of Saginaw, Michigan, was the first man to fence land on the Rocksprings Divide country. He fenced the land now belonging to Juhan Jenkins, and the Whitworths on down to Hackberry. Ammon Billings was overseer

of the Burt territory at that time. The first rock tank in the country was built about that time on this ranch. Mr. Burt owned a very large block of land, and later sold twelve sections to J. M. Benskin for \$1.04 per acre.

When this fence was built during the depression of the 1890's, people came from as far away as Leakey to work for \$.75 and board. Albert Lovelady was boss of the fence building.

One of the earliest settlers of the Divide country was L. K. Henderson. Mr. Henderson is credited with giving the town its name. The name was first spelled Rock Springs, and was later changed to the one word, Rocksprings. The town is named for some small seeping springs that come out of the rocks near the town on a part of the Henderson ranch. Mr. Henderson claimed that the town was being located in the middle of his best cow pasture.

These seeping springs later dried up when people began to drill wells in the town and in the surrounding area.

The present site of the Rocksprings school building was conveyed to James M. Hunter, county judge, for public school use on July 23, 1893. It represented four acres and was conveyed by W. M. Sanford.

The First Methodist church of Rocksprings was organized in 1893, in the home of Mrs. Mary Buswell, which was located one block west of the courthouse.

R. B. Hargroves served as first bishop in 1893, and D. O. McAllister of Kerrville, Texas, was the first pastor, assuming that position on May 1, 1893. M. A. Black was the presiding elder.

The roll of first membership listed the following members: Mrs. J. N. Whitworth, Inez Benton (Mrs. Jess Gilmer), Mrs. Ab Benton, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Gill, Mrs. Mary Buswell and family, O. W. Holmes family, Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. West Hill, and Mr. and Mrs. George Maul.

The first land donated to the congregation were lots 3 and 4, block 6. These were donated by J. P. Sanford. Later, S. A. Hough conveyed lot 5 to the Methodist Church, and still later lots 6 and 7 were conveyed by Dave Elms.

Mr. Gill organized the first Sunday School, and the first literature was bought by Ira L. Wheat. Mrs. Sanford, a talented musician, was quite active with the younger set (eight of her own), and play parties and singing church socials were held in their large home.

Church was first held in the small schoolhouse in its first location, and later services were held in the schoolhouse at the present school site. This school was used as a meeting place for all the churches, and the courthouse was used by all denominations for protracted meetings before church buildings were constructed.

The first five pastors were: D. O. McAlister, G. M. Gardner, H. T. Hill, V. G. Thomas, and Charles F. Annis.

In the early days, Rocksprings had two saloons, operated by Herman Fleischer, Sr., and Joe Burris and George Newton. Once each year, the owners of these two businesses brought two buckets, each containing \$35 in silver money, which was donated to the Methodist Church for its upkeep. In making the donations, the money would be poured from the buckets into big dishpans in front of the congregation.

In 1893, when the Methodist Church was being organized, people coming to town to attend court stayed generally at Mrs. Buswell's rooming house. Mr. Jack Whitworth had come to court, and also to do some courting with Miss Ida Winn. He had been saving a five-dollar bill for many months, and Mrs. W. M. Sanford approached him soon after he reached the Buswell hotel for a donation to the Methodist Church. Poor Mr. Jack had nothing but the five-dollar bill in his pocket, but rather than embarrass Miss Ida, he handed over his prize savings to help with the establishment of the church.

In 1893, the Edwards County area experienced one of its worst droughts. Rainfall was low that year and ranges began to dry up. Water supplies on the Divide became scarce and crops in the Canyon area were light. The drought, coming on the heels of the depression of the Cleveland administration, created hardships all over the country. The rainfall average for the five-year period between 1889 and 1894 was about twenty inches.

Early settlers in the Divide country were the Newtons, who settled where the Diamond ranch is now located. The Diamond Ranch was once owned by people in England who advertised it for sale in England, and with the interest in diamond discoveries in Africa, thought the name Diamond would make it more attractive to prospective English buyers. A Mr. Robinson, who owned the ranch, and lived there with his family, fell off a high porch and died from internal injuries received from the fall.

Among the earliest settlers in the Divide section was

W. T. Anderson. He came to what is now the Lloyd Mitchell ranch, before 1890, and his family followed in 1891. He ran sheep first and then cattle. Mr. Anderson was widely known as one of the best sheepmen in West Texas. His flocks of sheep were kept under herd, not only because of the open country, but also because of the many predatory animals, wolves, mountain lions and wildcats.

Mr. Anderson's daughters, Mrs. Wiley Alexander, and Mrs. Payne Rudasil, remember their trips into Rocksprings across the country from the ranch when there were no fences and therefore no gates to be opened. In the fall of the year, Gus Schreiner from Kerrville, with his chuckwagon, and Sam Glynn and his cowboys, would make the rounds of the ranches, buying calves and driving them to the Schreiner ranches, where they would be kept until they were three or four years old before marketing them. If some were too small to go, he would wait until the next fall to take them. Mr. Hamilton from Del Rio made similar rounds, buying the sheep.

The Bradfords were early settlers in Edwards County, coming here from Mississippi in the early days. The Bradfords bought land at the head of Hackberry, and at first ran cattle. They later bought goats from one of the Ridgeway boys.

The Snodgrass family were early settlers on the Divide.

The Joe Taylor family, who ran the J5 brand, had their horse and cow camp at Horse Waterhole, and ran as many as 1000 horses and 2500 cows when the range was open and free. Less, Henry, Tom and Buck were sons of Joe Taylor, who helped in the extensive ranch operations of their father.

When the Reynolds family owned the old Joe Taylor ranch, they had a post office there, and the place was called Reynolds, Texas.

In 1893, the Will Whittley family came from Rossville below San Antonio to Edwards County. A short time before the Whittleys moved to the Canyon country, the father of Will Whittley was killed by lightning at their home near Dilley. The lightning bolt that broke Mr. Whittley's neck melted his spurs, but didn't kill the horse that he rode. The Ben Casey family and the Whittley family had been neighbors at Rossville. Will Whittley and Martha Casey began their friendship there. In 1893, Mr. Whittley came to the Canyon, where the girl friend of his boyhood days lived with

her family. A courtship followed and the two united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents near Barksdale in 1893.

Mrs. Loss Alexander made the wedding dress. A large crowd of friends and relatives gathered to see the wedding ceremony, and later in the evening a big supper was served to all the guests.

Soon after the marriage, the young couple moved into the Vance community where Mr. Whittley had secured employment on the ranch of Bud Yost. After a stay of one year on the Yost ranch, Mr. Whittley moved to the Barksdale vicinity and took up a piece of school land near Baker Hill. In the meantime, the Whittleys had become the proud parents of a little baby girl, whom they named Lillie.

The first Baptist Church was organized in Rocksprings September 23, 1893, and was called the Missionary Baptist Church of Christ. The meeting to organize the congregation was held in the courthouse. Elders S. D. Smith and J. C. McKiver met with them to assist in the organizing. After some singing of hymns, Bro. McKiver read some appropriate passages of scripture and led in an introductory prayer. On a motion and second, Bro. Smith was elected as moderator, and J. L. Barnes, as clerk. Letters from the brothers and sisters were handed in and read by the clerk. After being satisfied with the letters, and in fellowship with one another, the church covenant and the articles of faith were read. Both were unanimously adopted. The members then gave the hand of fellowship to one another. They elected Bro. T. W. Patrick as deacon and J. L. Barnes as clerk. After prayer, the meeting was adjourned. Of the seven charter members, six later moved away. The church was later fully organized in 1898, at the close of a meeting conducted by Bro. Uzzell and Bro. Payne in the schoolhouse.

The Lon Buck family moved from their ranch below Vance into the Vance community in 1893. He invested his money in a "merry-go-round" mounted with hobbyhorses, and set up the carnival piece in Vance. Mr. Buck was soon doing a rushing business, as this equipment was something of a novelty in those days. Parents in the surrounding area brought their children in and let them enjoy themselves on the merry-go-round. A young man was employed to drive the horse that furnished the power, and for his braking system to stop the machine, he would drag his foot along the ground until the machine stopped.

After Mr. Buck had done all the business in Vance that the community could afford, he took to the road with his hobbyhorses. Jess Roberts was hired to help him, and Jess says they traveled over the country for quite a while, until finally the equipment wore out. Mr. Buck then moved out of the Canyon and located in New Mexico.

The Math Taylors sold their property on Dry Creek, in 1893, to Button Sanchez, who had recently lived below the Joe Roberts place above Vance.

In 1893, people in the neighborhood of the Ben Casey family above Barksdale built a little schoolhouse on the river, a short distance from the Casey residence. The Math Taylor children attended this school that year. Mr. Reddick, a newcomer to the Canyon, taught the school. Some of the neighbors of the Taylor family were the J. D. Laceys on Race Track Hollow, the Alfred Nelson and Tobe Lacey families, the Cromeans, the Wards and the Caseys.

In 1893, John Chapman and Molly Chant were united in marriage at the home of the bride's mother at Turnpike. The Chapmans, after their marriage, moved to Cedar Creek to make their home.

John W. James was appointed postmaster for Rocksprings, June 2, 1893.

Joe Chant moved from Four Mile Prairie in 1893 and went to work for John Chapman at Mr. Chapman's place on Cedar Creek. The Chapmans, at that time, were living in a log house about one mile below the main fork of Cedar Creek.

Mr. Chant remembers that, while he was working for John Chapman, he would go to nearly all the horse races in the country. In fact, Mr. Roberts adds that he used to do a lot of riding himself. He recalls one race that came off at Cubb's Lake south of Rocksprings. Lee Wallace and the Wood boys had matched their horses for this race, and Lee's horse won.

In 1893, Dave Sweeten, who lived on a place northwest of Barksdale on Pulliam, began the construction of an irrigation ditch to water a body of land near his home. Jack Cromeans contracted to do the work for him.

At Cubb's Lake, Ote Coalson once matched a horse race with Frank Stewart. During the time that preparations were being made for the race, Frank said something that Ote didn't much like and Ote wanted to give Frank a whipping. Frank put his arm on Ote's shoulder and said, "Well, Ote,

you could but you never did." The two men then laughed off the whole affair.

While living on Cedar Creek and before that time, too, Joe Chant did lots of hunting. He was considered to be one of the best hunters in the country during his day. He says that he must have killed a roomful of deer altogether during that period of his lifetime.

One time he killed a bear. Joe had two pet shoats that stayed around the house most of the time, but which finally got to making their bed about a half-mile above the house. One day Joe noticed buzzards circling around over the spot where the hogs' bed was located. After investigating he found that a bear had killed one of the shoats. He set out with his dogs and they struck the trail late in the afternoon. The dogs overtook the bear as he was going up the side of a mountain. Joe took a running shot and wounded the bear in the foot. The dogs treed him soon after that on top of a low bluff. Joe came up then with his gun and shot him.

Another time, he and Ote Coalson had been hunting together. As they were coming in home they saw a bear coming out of a big hollow. The bear disappeared up the canyon but soon came out and was climbing a hill out of the canyon on the other side from the two men. Joe took a shot at him and killed him.

On another hunt, Joe Chant and Sam Taylor were hog hunting on Deep Creek. The dogs struck the trail of a panther and finally treed him in a mott of timber over a bluff. Joe shot and killed him.

Joe says the most deer he ever killed in one morning was four. He and Sam Taylor were hunting and Joe walked up on a bunch of three bucks. He killed two of them. He went a ways farther and struck another buck, which he wounded. While trailing the wounded deer, he ran across another buck and shot him. He went on then and found the wounded deer, and after getting him, returned to the place where he had killed the first two. A wildcat was helping himself to one of the deer, so Joe put the dogs on his trail and finally killed him.

Joe Chant and Tom Reavis often hunted deer together. Some people in those days made their living killing deer and selling their hides and hams. Uncle Tom was among the best hunters in the country.

Zeke Cox taught the Cedar Creek school in 1893. Among the pupils attending this school were the Raneys, the Webbs,

the Coalsons, the Chisums, the Stouts, and the Weltys.

One time, on Cedar Creek, Sam Taylor was at Nic Coalson's White Mountain ranch. Nic asked him if he wanted to go out to the old rock well and kill a deer. Sam agreed, so Ote got a pint bottle of water and the two men set out. Sam asked Nic if he didn't think they ought to carry more water. Nic said no, that they would make a cup of tea that night and one the next morning. They got to the well, which was dry. They killed a couple of deer there the next day and returned to the ranch. The old frontiersmen like Nic Coalson could go for long periods of time with very little water.

Prof. Toole taught the Barksdale School in 1894.

After the establishment of the county seat in Rocksprings in 1891, the town of Rocksprings built up rapidly. Barksdale had a corresponding loss in population. Among the families that moved from the Canyon to Rocksprings were the Fleischers, the Stiebers, the Grantlands, the Paul Jones', the Joe Burris', and the Wheats.

One of the first stores to be put up in Rocksprings was that of the partnership of French, Warren, McDonald, and Barnes. It was known as "The Big Four."

Robert Grantland remembers that he was about eight years old when his family moved to Rocksprings. They moved a bunch of cattle and Rob helped with the herd. The first night out, they penned at the Jones place above Barksdale. The cattle stampeded that night and tore the pens down. Robert Rhodes was one of the hands. Rob remembers that his saddle had a pair of iron stirrups, and that they rattled all the way to Rocksprings from the Grantland ranch. The second night, they penned the cattle at the George Taylor place. They had no pens, but herded the cattle in an old field there.

They arrived at the Dan Crier ranch, five miles north of Rocksprings, without further trouble. This was the place Sam Grantland had traded for.

Millard Parkerson moved from the Vance community to the Divide in 1894, and bought the R. A. Winn ranch. Shortly after making the move, he came back to the Canyon and bought a big string of steers. He bought one bunch from Lum Thompson's father on the Frio, the deal being that Mr. Thompson would deliver the steers to Bullhead. Lum was about twelve years old then, and helped with the steers from the Frio to the Phil Waddell ranch near

Vance. Jeff Thompson, Lum's older brother, was in the crew. When they got to Waddells with the cattle, Mr. Parkerson said that every man from whom he had bought steers would have to furnish a hand from the Waddell ranch to Rocksprings. Dave Thompson said he would let Jeff go, so he went along to help with the steers. Zac Eppler was another of the cowboys in that drive.

Lum Thompson says that he started breaking horses when he was twelve years old. One of Dave Thompson's neighbors, a Mr. Shackelford, always raised a few good colts each year. Mr. Shackelford had a couple of matched greys that he wanted Lum to break for him. Lum took the job and broke one of them. He then took the other colt home to break. He mounted this last horse one day and rode him about a half-mile. Lum had on a ducking jacket that day, and he says that his brother, A. J., was with him. A limb hit the jacket and scared the horse. The horse started pitching and went right through a live oak thicket, and out the other side and back through the thicket again. By that time, the ducking jacket had only one button left on it, and the collar and the sleeves were torn off his shirt. But the horse never did throw him.

Later on, Mr. Shackelford used the two greys for a buggy team, and worked them for two years. One time, he drove the team from his place on the Frio to Bandera. He had a man named Freeman working for him. The greys ran away with the hack and almost wrecked the vehicle before Mr. Shackelford got them stopped.

Will Pruitt want to buy the horses. He offered \$225, but Mr. Shackelford wouldn't let him have them. Lum told Will that they were too much horses for the old man. Lum tried to get the old man to sell the horses. Mr. Shackelford said that he had a big five-year-old bay horse, and if Lum would break this horse good and gentle for him, so that he would have another team, then he would sell the horses. So Lum took the bay horse to break. The Jernigan family lived below Thompsons at that time. Lum ran the horse into their corral, roped him, and mounted him. After he had ridden the horse around the lot awhile, he told Neal to open the gate and let him out.

In 1894, the Ed Hill family moved to Pecan Springs. Mr. Raney and Mr. Hill were partners in the cattle business there. Mr. Mobley was ranching on the Silver Lake ranch

at that time and sold a string of cattle to Mr. Hill and Mr. Raney.

The Vance schoolhouse was moved in 1894 from the town of Vance to the Bolen place above Vance. The move was made for the convenience of the Cody Roberts children, who lived at Four Mile Prairie, and had to walk to Vance to school.

Zac Eppler says he rode horses as far back as he can remember. He was on several cattle drives up the country, and whenever Millard Parkerson would move a bunch of stuff out of the country, Zac went along. Zac says that he never did think of riding as hard work, but he says the hours were always long. He never did make a long trip up the trail. The greatest distance he ever went from Vance with a herd was to Paint Rock.

In 1894, the Matthews brothers, Ace, Dan, Charlie, and Jim, came into the country. Ace and Dan were Baptist preachers. Dan Matthews preached for many years in the Canyon, and would often walk from Vance to Rocksprings to fill preaching appointments. The story of his preaching experiences is an interesting chapter in the history of Edwards County.

In 1894, Joe Chant was married to Lula Taylor in the Dan Taylor home on Cedar Creek.

In 1894, John Nix installed sawmill machinery in Barksdale. The sawmill became a part of the Nix cotton gin and gristmill that was installed in the 1880's. There was a big demand over the country for lumber, for the construction of houses to replace the log houses of the first settlers. Nix saw the possibilities of deriving some profit from the sawing of hardwood logs into lumber. Along the banks of the streams, and in the river valleys, were good stands of oak, elm, and cherry timber, and it was from the logs of these hardwood trees that Mr. Nix produced his lumber.

Mr. Nix used wood for firing his steam boiler. Local people found a source of income from cutting cordwood, and hauling it to the Nix mill. Among the people who furnished wood to Mr. Nix was Cody Roberts. In those days, a person could chop wood anywhere that it could be found. When the Cromeans family lived on Dry Creek, Mr. Roberts used to stay with them occasionally and chop wood for the sawmill. Mrs. Frank Casey says her family didn't charge him any board, because in those days people didn't charge for things like that.

After the Math Taylor family moved from Dry Creek, Tobe Edwards, a local bachelor, moved in and occupied the place first settled by the McDonald family.

In 1897, Mr. Jack Edwards wrote a letter to his brother, Tobe, inquiring about the Nueces Canyon. Following are copies of those letters.

Robbers Roost, November 16, 1897

Mr. J. W. Edwards; Sir: Dear Brother, It is with pleasure I seat myself to answer your kind letter, I reseived a few days ago. I was glad to hear from you once more and hear you was all well and in the notion of moving out here well Jack you wanted to know about crops here; corn was very good corn is worth 50 cents per bushell cottn is very good pork is worth from 4 to 5 cents That is about the best poor mans country that I have struck there is plenty of honey in the mountains and a good many deer well Jack it is about 50 miles to Uvalde from Barksdale that is the nearst depot and the nearst saddle shop Jack I dont think Ozona would soot you because you would have to buy everything you get wood water and all well Jack I have started me a ranch abot 6 miles from Barksdale But I dont have much time to work at it for there is too much stone work about I have just got back from building a chimney up on Bullhead I was up there when I got your letter that is why I have not answered it sooner well Jack if you want to come out here let me know as soon as you get this and when you get redy to start let me know and I will meet you at Uvalde depot well as I can think of nothing more I will close for this time this leaves me and Elar well hopeing it will come safe to hand and find you all well and about ready to start rite as soon as you get this so no more at present I remain as ever your brother and friend R. S. Edwards.

Uncle Jack came to Edwards County at his brother's suggestion and lived there many years following his trades as saddle and boot maker and chimney mason.

Seco, Bandera, Tex. Jan. 1897 Mr. J. W. Edwards Sir Dear Brother It is with pleasure I seat myself to answer your kind letter which I reseved a few days ago your letter found all well well Jack I have no news to rite only we have had some mighty cold weather here lately but the stock is looking very well yet times is getting prity hard here now so I dont see eny other chance only for me to emigrate farther west I think I will go out about Ozona

Crockett County George is out there and he wrote their was plenty of stone work out there and money to pay for work this country has played out. There is getting to be too meny old nesters in here for a man to make enything you know yourself there is no money where farming is going on and the stockmen dont hire nothing but Mexicans Jack I heard there was a railroad a going to Ozona and if there is I guess it would be a good place for a saddle shop well Jack as I can think of nothing more I will close for this time excuse this short letter this leave us all well and happy so no more at present write soon and often I remain as ever your brother and friend R. S. Edwards.

Mr. Tobe Edwards was a man of peculiar habits. He had a big string of hounds, and the old-timers say that each dog had a place around the table where, at mealtime, they would all gather and Mr. Edwards would feed each one from his own bowl. The dogs all slept in the house around the fireplace near the bed of their master. Mr. Edwards had a few cattle on his ranch on Dry Creek and raised sweet potatoes on his irrigated fields there. Many of the stone fireplaces and chimneys in the country were built by Mr. Edwards and his brother, John.

In 1894, Alfred Nelson bought the ranch above Lee Bottom on the Vance road from Jim Cromeans. He raised cattle on this place and did some farming.

The Nelson brothers, John and Alfred, came to Edwards County from Arkansas, John arriving in the Canyon several years before Alfred. John married Martha Cromeans, one of Jack Cromeans' daughters, in the late '80's, and settled on Camp Wood Creek, where he ranched and operated a small irrigated farm.

A considerable town had sprung up at the new county seat by the year 1894. A number of dwelling houses had been built and many other families lived in tents. The Rube Stewart Hotel was a frame building and several tents were stretched nearby. M. Z. Weaver put up a livery stable in 1894 where the Fleischer garage is now located. An enclosed dance hall was built near the courthouse square.

The John Perkins family moved back to the Nueces Canyon in 1894, after a ten-year absence. The family settled on a place on the Main Nueces about seven miles above Vance. The John Perkins children attended school that year in a little log house with seats and benches made of split logs. Miss Delia Sweeten taught that term of school. This

schoolhouse was located on the west bank of the river, across from where the Hackberry post office was later built.

Mr. J. M. Reddick taught the school at Bolen Flat above Vance in 1894.

The Stillwell family moved to Pulliam Creek in 1894, and took up a piece of land south of the George Taylor place. There were two schools taught on Pulliam that year, one at the mouth of Little Hackberry, and the other below the Benskin place. Children could attend both schools if the parents so wished, as the terms did not run concurrently, but followed one after the other.

In the fall of 1893, Jim Pope got up a shearing crew to shear sheep in the Sonora country. He gave Tom Wood the contract to run the chuck wagon and board the shearing crew. Mr. Wood took his family and his mother-in-law with him. Mrs. Wood and her mother did the cooking and Mr. Wood sheared with the crew. His men got 5¢ per head for shearing and boarded the hands for 33 1/3¢ per day.

They were gone on the trip one month, and Mr. Wood says he cleared about \$100 in cash and about \$25.00 in grub. In those days, that was good wages, but today one would have to charge four or five times as much in order to make expenses.

In the spring of 1894, Mr. Wood sold Al Haley sixteen good young cows at \$8.00 per head, and delivered them to the Dragoo ranch about sixteen miles north of Rocksprings on the draws of the South Llano. Mr. Wood says that cattle were selling for practically nothing at that time.

Mr. Wood did considerable shearing in the early '90's, to supplement his ranch income. He very often had a crew of twenty men working on his shearing contracts, and the men all sheared with hand-shears. He did shearing work in the Canyon, on the Divide around Rocksprings, and in Sutton County near Sonora. In the spring of 1894, he got together a crew and went into Sutton County to shear sheep. He took his family and his mother-in-law on this trip and they did the cooking for the crew. Mr. Wood boarded the hands for 33 1/3¢, and got one-fourth cent per sheep for bossing the job.

The crew started out at the O. J. Wood ranch ten miles south of Sonora, on February 28, 1894. Mr. O. J. Wood claimed that he had 10,000 head of sheep. The crew sheared 200 sacks of wool. When they finished shearing at that ranch, they went east to Cauthorn's, and sheared for him.

When the crew left Cauthorn's, they went to the Edwards ranch, but because the crew was so long in getting there, Mr. Edwards had given the job to a Mexican crew. The shearing season was about over, so the crew broke up and went home.

Mr. Wood says they had jolly times while on those trips. Sometimes a member of the crew would make a speech before going to bed. Wiley Adams was the crew's best orator. It seemed as if he enjoyed making a little speech as much as the others enjoyed listening to him.

Mr. Wood did some farming on his place. He had some little patches that he irrigated from the creek where he raised vegetables and sweet potatoes. He was able to sell some of the potatoes at the patch for 50¢ a bushel, and he sold some in Rocksprings at 65¢ a bushel.

In 1894, Jim Thompson got very sick, and Tom Wood spent considerable time sitting up with the sick man. Mr. Thompson was the brother of Mr. Wood's wife. About noon on September 23, 1894, Mr. Wood was at the Thompson place, and was sitting by the sick man's bed with his back to the bed. Mr. Thompson had a spell of delirium. He had a knife in his pocket and said he wanted to clean his fingernails. Someone gave him a nail, not thinking what he wanted to do. He took the nail and put it under his pillow. He then got his knife and handed the nail to Mr. Wood. Mr. Wood took the nail and put it on the bedpost. In the meantime, Mr. Wood had turned around and when he did, Mr. Thompson struck him in the neck with the knife. Mr. Wood fell face forward, completely paralyzed. He couldn't move any part of his body except his head. He could hear, and see, and talk, and knew everything that was going on, but couldn't move even a finger or a toe.

Mr. Thompson died two days later on the 25th of September, 1894. Mr. Wood remained paralyzed up until the time of his death some forty years later, although he could walk with the aid of crutches.

The local blacksmith, Asael W. Ackerly, was also a merchant, hotel operator, cobbler, contractor, and road overseer. He was appointed postmaster for Barksdale on August 22, 1894. On September 25, 1894, Julian J. Gill was appointed postmaster of Rocksprings, to succeed John W. James.

Edwards County wool production for the year 1894 was 160,114 pounds.

In 1894, Ira L. Wheat was re-elected to the office of

sheriff of Edwards County. J. C. Pope of the Barksdale community was appointed animal and hide inspector for the county.

One time in the early '90's, Sam Raney found that somebody had penned up a bunch of hogs in a cave in his pasture. The hogs belonged to people in the neighborhood, so Sam, who was at the time a deputy sheriff, sent for Ira Wheat to come down to see if they could catch the thieves. Mr. Wheat came down, and he and Mr. Raney watched the place for about a week, but nobody ever did show up to get the hogs.

After the Fleischer family moved to Rocksprings, Gus went to school there. Gus remembers the time when Ira Wheat put him and some other boys in jail for fighting with slingshots. The Anglo boys had been fighting the Mexican boys. Gus says they had a big time till dark, at which time they began to want to go home.

This jailhouse was the one that was moved from Leakey when the county seat was changed. The jail had a high board fence around it with a two-by-four studded with spikes nailed around it. This was designed to keep the prisoners from getting away.

While this jail was still at Leakey, the sheriff had two prisoners in the cage. One night they put a blanket over the spikes and tried to escape. Herman Fleischer was deputy then, and he came along in time to see the attempted jail-break. He shot one of the fellows in the leg, toppling him back into the cage. This incident ended trouble with these two individuals.

Loss Alexander was a native of Tennessee. He came to Texas when a young man and married Hettie Lee Slaten in Bastrop County. They moved to Edwards County in 1895, and settled at Vance. The couple had two children when they came into the country, Wiley and Lady. Mr. Alexander went to work as a ranch hand, working first for Bud Yost, then for John and Millard Parkerson. Lady and Wiley attended their first school in Vance. Miss Tommy Brown was the teacher.

On July 1, 1895, Miss Lula Kirchner, sixteen-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Kirchner of Barksdale, was instantly killed when she was thrown from her horse against a tree near the Kirchner home. Late in the afternoon of July 1st, Miss Kirchner had gotten on her horse bareback, and had ridden him down the road to the home of her uncle, a

Mr. Henry Kirchner. A half-hour later, some children came and reported seeing the horse near the road without a rider. Mrs. Kirchner immediately went in search, and soon arrived at the scene, where she found the crushed body of her daughter.

J. J. Fords operated a livery stable and feed store in Rocksprings in 1896.

Carl Kirchner ran the Buckhorn saloon in the county seat that year.

A sweepstakes race was held on July 24, 1896, at the Rocksprings Race Track. The race was announced as being run for the best horses and best classes, the committee retaining the right to pass on to other classes in the event that no winner was found. It was to be run for a purse of \$20.00, and an entrance fee of \$5.00 was to be charged.

In March of 1896, it was reported that three wagonloads of idiots, loaded for grizzly bear, passed through Rocksprings en route to old Camp Wood and Montell to search for the legendary buried treasure and abandoned silver mines of those places.

J. M. Field was the expert blacksmith and wheelwright of Rocksprings in 1896. His shop was located east of the plaza.

In 1896, Sheriff Ira Wheat was called to the Hackberry community, where a skeleton had been reported found. The place was in the roughs of the county near the head of Joy Hollow, a tributary of the East Prong of the Nueces. A Mexican shepherd had found the remains and reported it to his employer.

Mr. Wheat was unable, on his trip of inspection, to locate anything except a skull, although a few other bones were lying around in the vicinity. He was unable to identify them positively as human bones.

The bones were found in a very rough spot where it would have been impossible for one to have ridden on horseback. The skull was found under a low cedar tree. Mr. Wheat also brought in one boot and part of a pair of pants. The boot was in very good condition, but must have been out in the weather for at least two or three years.

Mr. Wheat stated that within the past seven years three men had mysteriously disappeared from the county. The first was a Negro; the other two were white. The Negro's horse and saddle were found near where his skeleton was discovered.

On Hackberry, C. C. Comer taught the Bolen Flat School in 1895. Some of the children who attended this school were the Merritts, the Mullens, the Pontons, and the two Roberts families.

Rube Barber moved from Brownwood, Texas, to Edwards County in 1895. There were two families of Barbers who came in together, Rube and Ab Barber. Rube Barber's family lived for some time at Paint Rock in Concho County. While there, he acquired an interest in the Concho Cattle Company. While living at Paint Rock, a son, Hood, was born to the Barbers. There were four other children in the family, Penn, Anson (Sport), Boyd, and Reuben. Reuben was killed in World War I.

The Barbers came to Edwards County in horse-drawn wagons. The Blair family joined the group at Paint Rock and came to the Nueces Canyon with them. The three families camped on the head of Hackberry and stayed there about a year while looking for a permanent location. The Brown family were their neighbors at this camp.

The next move was to McDonald Hollow, which was made in 1896. McDonald Hollow was about four miles east of their first location.

The Lon Welch family moved in 1895 to the old Balke place on Pulliam. The family of Buck Green was living on the place, and Mr. Green traded with Lon Welch. The Balkes were Irishmen, who moved into the Canyon in the early '80's and, after staying a few years, moved out of the country.

In the early '90's, the Magonagill family lived in a big log house west of Barksdale near the present ranch home of Mrs. Bud Anderson. The Magonagill children attended the school on Pulliam Creek near their place. Some other families who had children attending this school were the Greens and the Popes; Laura Green, Lyda Magonagill, and Ocie Pope were the champion spellers in the community.

The elder Magonagill later became county judge of Edwards County. He had a son who became a lawyer and practiced law in the county for some time.

Another Magonagill used to come through the country with a big grey race horse. He was never able to match his horse in a race in the Barksdale community.

The J. D. Lacy family moved from their place on Race Track above Barksdale, to Fredericksburg, Texas, in 1895.

Mr. Stokes, early Edwards County newspaper publisher,

first visited Rocksprings in the spring of 1894. Rocksprings then had a courthouse, and a good stone jail contracted for and completed a year later. It also had substantial school and church buildings. Two general stores, one owned by Warren and Barnes, the other by McDonald and French, both carried good lines of merchandise. In addition, there was a drugstore, two hotels, a livery stable, saloon, boot shop, barber shop, blacksmith, and also a good butcher shop and a printing office that had been operating for a little more than a year. The Wheats, the Sanfords, the Buswells, the Bentons, Lee Wallace, Charlie Franks, and Sam Hough were some of the people with whom Mr. Stokes became acquainted on his 1894 visit.

Several stockholders of the local newspaper contacted Mr. Stokes while he was in Rocksprings, and wanted to know what he knew about publishing a newspaper. Well, he said, he knew a little about how to set and distribute type, how to transfer it from sticks to galleys, and from galley to the chases and onto the press, and a few other things necessary to the publication of a small town newspaper, which he had learned while employed by the *Brady Sentinel* when Claud and Roy Hudspeth were at its helm. The stockholders wanted to sell their stock to him on the spot, and as to payment thereof, they proposed to take it out in subscriptions, advertising, and job printing. A deal was concluded, and the editor-to-be began to contact others, stockholders whom he had not seen, at the same time beginning on the job with the idea of getting the next paper out on time, dealing with other stockholders at his convenience. To his amazement, he found that one John Newton, a fellow townsman and shrewd trader, as well as a stockholder in the paper, owned one-half of the total stock, which he had acquired at a discount; inasmuch as Mr. Newton wouldn't set a price on his share of the enterprise, it had to be operated on a partnership basis.

During midsummer of the following year, a stranger appeared in town one drowsy afternoon, and for the next few hours left his horse in the Newton livery stable. Not many hours later, it was announced that a horse race had been matched between the above-mentioned animal, named Betty Connors, on the one side, and Gulliver, controlled by the Thurmans of Kickapoo, on the other side.

After a lapse of two or three weeks, Pat Garrett, the same Pat Garrett who was at one time sheriff of Lincoln County,

New Mexico, and who killed Billy the Kid, appeared on the scene and assumed management of the race animal, Betty Connors.

On the day of the race, about two o'clock in the afternoon, a young lawyer from Uvalde drove into town. It was John Nance Garner, the same individual who later served thirty years in Congress, and terminated his official career by becoming Vice-President of the United States under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

At the race track, before the two contestants began to warm up, the two newspaper owners, Stokes and Newton, both possessing sporting blood, entered into the equestrian game of chance. Stokes knew that Newton was following the opinion of Burl Thurman, one of the Thurman boys, who were backing Gulliver, while he, himself, preferred the opinion of Pat Garrett and John Garner; so at the proper moment he offered Newton his choice of the two animals, with the entire newspaper establishment to go to the winner. It was no sooner said than Mr. Newton replied, "It's a go, I'll take Gulliver."

An hour later, when John Garner stood up in his buggy and bet all comers 2 to 1 on Betty Connors, Newton looked a little pale around the gills, but as a good sport, stood hitched, until the judges announced, "Betty Connors wins by three lengths." Then the Rocksprings *Rustler* became the sole property of J. M. Stokes.

It was stated by some from Uvalde that Mr. Garner was to be married at 8:00 P.M. that night.

The next issue of the *Rustler*, in its writeup of the great race, also commented on Mr. Garner's tenacity and pluck in remaining out until five in the afternoon, fifty-five miles from the scene of his wedding, with no more dependable conveyance than a frail buggy on a rough and rocky road. "Anyone with such determination may be expected to make his mark in life," it said. It further stated that one of the largest crowds ever assembled in Rocksprings was at the race track to see the great contest.

The Young family moved to Edwards County in 1895 from Henderson County. There were several boys in the family: Ed, Harry, Lee, and J. B., all of whom settled around Rocksprings and engaged in the ranching business.

J. N. Whitworth moved to Edwards County in 1895, and established the ranch now known as the E. C. Beam ranch. In 1895, Mr. Whitworth was married to Miss Ida Winn,

daughter of R. A. Winn, at the Winn ranch west of Rocksprings. Mr. Whitworth later sold that ranch and bought the Pete Wood ranch east of town.

While the John Davis family was living on Hackberry, Bob, the eldest son of the family, entered the goat business. The range boss of a passing herd gave Bob two motherless calves. Bob traded the two calves for eleven Angora does. Uncle Johnny Brown of Vance loaned him money to buy a buck. Bob says he didn't buy any more goats for fifteen years, building his large flock from that foundation stock. He says he has some of that original blood still in his herd.

In the early 1890's, a Methodist church was organized in Montell. Through donations from people of the community, a church house was built. The balance due on the building was advanced by Tom Sutherland, and was later donated by him to the church. Members of the Bob Sutherland, the Tom Sutherland, and the Will Sutherland families were among the charter members.

At the spring, 1895, session of the Edwards County Commissioners Court, among the other business transacted, the matter of surveying and establishing the county line between Edwards County and Bandera County was discussed and the project was approved. The court also voted to advertise and order an election for the purpose of voting a \$7000 bond to build a new jailhouse for the county.

The Rocksprings Masonic Lodge was chartered on December 8, 1895, when a meeting place had already been established. J. L. Barnes and M. W. Warren sold lot number 1 in block number 2 in Rocksprings to the Rocksprings Masonic Lodge on August 3, 1894, for \$500. A portion of this building was used as a bank, and the upper story was the lodge room.

In 1895, Sam Raney bought cattle for Piper and West of Uvalde. He bought a good many head at from \$4.00 to \$8.00 per head, depending on the age of the animal. Dan Taylor cooked for his cow outfit.

In 1895, school was taught on Camp Wood Creek, in a little picket house three-fourths of a mile above the main fork in the creek. John Connell says he attended that school, taught by Delia Sweeten. The families of Lon Joy, W. A. Shockley, Woodward, Red, Will Maynard, Kelso, Henry Jernigan, John Stevens, John Nelson, and Bill Hutcherson, lived in that neighborhood and sent their children to this school.

Terry Hill says that one time when he and George Raney were fishing, George pushed him in the river. Terry got out of the water as mad as a wet hen and was going to fight George, but George ran off. Terry tried to catch him, but couldn't.

In the middle 1890's, Tom Sutherland moved into the Vance community and bought the Millard Parkerson ranch below town. Andrew Stevenson had improved this ranch back in the early '80's, and later sold it to Dr. Pippin. Dr. Pippin sold it to Millard Parkerson when he moved out of the country.

In 1895, the Tabor family lived on Pulliam Creek. Grandpa Tabor was a minister who preached in the Canyon country, whenever an opportunity was afforded. The country as yet had no organized churches, and no church building at that time had been put up. People gathered in the school-houses and in the homes to hold church services.

Noah Sweeten used to go upcountry and help with trail herds. After he was married and had a family, he continued to make these trips. Always when leaving the house to join the outfit, he would shout back, "Take care of the salt and don't waste the matches." Salt and matches were two very important household items in that day.

Grandpa Tabor had two boys, Gene and Emzy. Emzy Tabor married Omah Allison, a sister to the late Judge A. P. Allison.

Miss Tommy Brown taught the school at Bolen Flat in 1895. George Merritt remembers going there his first year of school. He says that he and his brothers walked for three miles to this school for years.

There were twelve children born to the Merritt family after they moved to Edwards County. There were three children in the family when the Merritts moved to the Nueces Canyon.

The Merritts came from Kerr County. Katie Hope Merritt was married to Alex Merritt on October 10, 1882, on the Guadalupe near Kerrville. Her brother, Jim Hope, local justice of the peace, performed the ceremony. Mrs. Merritt says she was very excited over the big crowd that gathered there to witness the ceremony. They celebrated with a big supper and a dance.

The Merritt children are: Dan, George, W. H. (Bub), Winifred, Burt, Randolph, Rosa, Mabel, Julia, Jennie, Bettie, Iva, and Sam. Most of these children married in the

Hackberry community. Julia was married to Alfred Welch, Rosa to Wiley Welch, Mabel to Joe Taylor, Betty to a Mr. Billings, Iva to a Mr. Tucker, Jennie to George Field, George to Joe Roberts' daughter, Bub to Jim Matthews' girl.

George Merritt remembers that the Boggs and Ponton families were neighbors to them on Hackberry. George says he went with his father one time to Uvalde for a load of supplies. George was about seven years old and it was his first trip to that metropolis. After reaching Uvalde, they camped near the railroad track. During the night, a train came through with a terrible roar, ringing its bell, and blowing its whistle. George says the train waked him up and he went to the top of the wagon squalling like a panther.

In the early '90's, the Gorman and Holt families left Edwards County and moved to Mason, Texas. The Stillwell family used to go there to visit them, and at one time they lived in Mason for about a year.

In 1895, Mary Matthews, a sister to Dan and Jim, taught the school on Pulliam. Dee Stillwell remembers going to school to her that year, and says that one day she gave Ben Hamrick a whipping. Ben had on an old ducking jacket, and Dee says the dust really flew.

One of the first bunches of sheep that was brought into Edwards County, came in 1894. Quite a stir was caused when a man by the name of Hillcoat brought sheep to Dobb's Run near the Old Dutch Battleground.

In 1898, a herd was brought in by Tom Remley. The cattlemen feared that the sheep would ruin the country.

In March, 1896, L. K. Henderson bought a section of land from Dr. Pippin. He settled there and raised his long-horn cattle on the open range. There was one windmill on the ranch which Dr. Pippin had invented and built himself. He had dug the well by hand to a depth of ninety feet, and had just put over it a fifty-foot tower. It was necessary to climb to the top of the tower to cut the windmill off by raising a weight and letting down a rope. The pipe raised and lowered when it pumped water. One day, a Mexican slipped and fell while he was cutting off the mill, but he grabbed a guy wire and slipped down to safety.

Miss Mabel Sanford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Sanford, and Charles F. Annis, the pastor of the Rocksprings Methodist Church, were united in marriage in a double wedding ceremony in 1896, with Judge Sam A. Hough and his bride, Annie Laurie Bradford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

M. M. Bradford. The double ceremony took place in Rock-springs.

In the late '90's, Billy Craven came into the Barksdale community and went to work for A. W. Ackerly in his blacksmith shop. Craven was an expert blacksmith, and appeared to be a well-educated man. Little was ever known about his past by the people of the Canyon. He was a friend of the Nix family and lived for a while with Math Casey. There were rumors afloat that he had been a member of Jesse James' gang, but those stories were without basis.

In 1896, a man named Drennan drove the mail from Uvalde to Vance. He kept two hacks and teams. One hack stayed in Vance and the other in Uvalde and they would meet at Laguna and exchange the mail.

John Nix had four children, John, Homer, Lula, and Carrie.

In 1896, the men elected to county offices were: J. M. Hunter, county judge; W. M. Sanford, county clerk; J. L. Lockley, sheriff; John W. Cowan, tax assessor; W. P. Pullen, treasurer; T. E. Puett, surveyor; F. M. Justice, commissioner for precinct number 2; A. W. Ackerly, justice of the peace, precinct number 2; and D. W. Pope, constable, precinct number 2.

At the first term of court in 1896, the county commissioners set the following valuations for the country for tax purposes. Improved valley land — \$1.50 to \$2.50 per acre. Improved Divide land — \$1.00. Cattle — \$10.00; saddle horses — \$20.00; stock horses — \$8.00; mutton sheep — \$1.50; stock sheep — \$1.00; goats — \$1.00 to \$2.00; hogs — \$1.50.

On June 9, 1896, the Edwards County Commissioners Court leased 17,000 acres of Edwards County school land located in Hockley County to DeVitt and Sharbouer at two cents an acre per annum for three years, with an option to buy the land at the end of that time.

Al Haley left the Canyon in the late '90's.

In 1896, Dr. Oatman completed his plans for building a home in Barksdale. Mamie Powers says she lived most of her early life with the Oatman family. When Dr. Oatman decided to move to Barksdale, Mamie and her grandmother, Mrs. Oatman, objected, but after a great deal of persuasion, the two finally consented to make the move. So Dr. Oatman wrote to Joe Beck in Barksdale to buy a small place for him there. This, Mr. Beck did, purchasing a block of land fronting on Water and Nelson Streets, east of the Nix resi-

dence. Soon afterward, Dr. Oatman came to Uvalde, where he purchased the material for his house, and engaged a carpenter. The material was shipped by wagons from Uvalde to Barksdale, and work was soon begun on the dwelling house. The contractor hired Ed Custer to help put up the house. It was a large building covering possibly 1800 square feet of ground. It was built in an L shape and faced south. A porch ran the length of the front part. A bedroom formed the ell on the west, and a tier of rooms running north and south — living room, bedroom, dining room, and kitchen — completed the floor arrangement. It was one of the prettiest and most up-to-date homes in the town. A novel feature of the house was its outside Venetian blind shutters.

Dr. Oatman brought a Negro girl and her husband to take care of the chores in and about the house. Dr. Oatman loved to fish and he spent most of his time on the river. The ladies were occupied in the social and religious affairs of the town and the community.

After helping to finish the Oatman house, Ed Custer went back to Beeville, Texas, to see a young lady, Etta Butler by name, with whom he had become acquainted some years before. He and Miss Butler became engaged, and were married in the A. B. Butler home in Beeville. He later returned to the Canyon with his bride, and settled down on his father's place near Pikes Peak. There he built a log cabin which was the home of the Custer family for many years, and which still stands as a landmark to the efforts of that pioneer family.

In 1896, the Harrington family moved to the Nueces Canyon, and bought a place on the river above Barksdale from John Parkerson. Dennis Pope was constable at Barksdale while Lockley was the sheriff of Edwards County. Dennis recalls some of the experiences he had while he served in that office.

Dr. Ash built a store in Barksdale about the time that Dennis became constable for the town. The Ash store was across the street from the John A. Barnes building on the corner of Main and Church streets. He put up a dwelling house on the corner of the block north of the store building. The doctor had two boys, Joe and Arthur. One night, the two boys took some corn from A. W. Ackerly's barn. Dennis was handed the warrant for the boys' arrest, and he soon brought them in. Before the scheduled trial, the boys left

town, and went to the cedar brake west of Barksdale. Dennis kept a close watch for the boys at their father's store, and they came in, one night before long, for groceries. They stopped their horses under the hill below town, and one of the boys stayed there to watch the horses while the other went to the store after the groceries. Dennis nabbed him before he could get away, and then went on down and arrested the other.

Another time, somebody stole a grey mare from Dr. Ash, and Dennis was sent to apprehend the thief. There were two men in the party that stole the mare, and it wasn't but a few days until Dennis located the pair going up Spring Creek. These men later stole a Navajo blanket from Ira Wheat. Dennis had a good horse, and trailed the suspects to Pecan Springs. Proc Webb and the Weaver family lived on Spring Creek at that time, and the trail went past their ranches on toward Brackett. The mare had slick shoes, which made her trail easy to follow. Dennis followed the trail to White Valley, and found a camp there. There was an old man there who had a slick-shod horse, but the animal didn't fit the description. Dennis followed the trail on to Kickapoo but didn't overtake the quarry. The men had sold the mare and saddle and the Navajo blanket. One of the boys later came back into the Canyon and was captured.

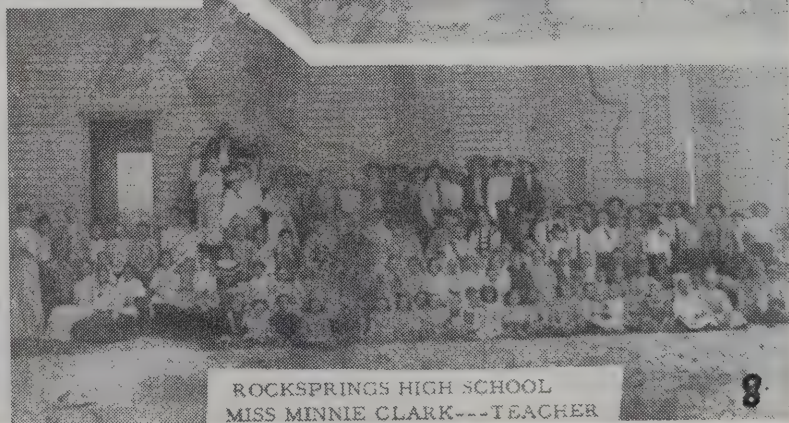
He was captured at the Jim Brown place. They had a big dance at the Browns, and Dennis and Dick Stewart went over to watch the place. The officers had been tipped off that the boy would be at the dance that night, but he had stopped at the Phil Waddell ranch above Vance instead. The deputies came upon him there and captured him.

Another time, Dennis was called on to investigate a case of goat stealing. Somebody on Cedar Creek had lost some goats, and the sheriff's office was notified. Dennis got John Welty to go with him to see if they could pick up the trail of the thieves. They came to a certain house on the river where they thought the suspects might be, and a vicious dog charged the two men. An old fellow in the house, when he heard the commotion outside, reached for his gun, and Dennis stopped him from using it; but the boy they were looking for wasn't there. He was later apprehended, tried, and sent to the penitentiary.

A short time after Johnny Coalson put up his hotel in Barksdale, he gave a big dance. The Voss boys were there, and they had the reputation of being quarrelsome and



1. Pulliam and Cedar Creek barbecue 2. A. W. Owens loading wool in Rocksprings



1. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Shackelford 2. Mr. and Mrs. Bud Yost 3. Sam Sparks children. Back row: Lucy and Eula 4. Mr. and Mrs. Zac Eppler 5. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Colwell and children, Robert, Clarence, Rosa, and Violet 6. Picnic group, Rocksprings, 1904 7. George and Bessie Raney 8. Rocksprings School group

quick-tempered. Dennis says the boys got drunk that night and wanted to dance every set. The crowd was big and the couples were having to take their turn in the dancing. Johnny Coalson was the floor manager, and was having some difficulty with the boys. He talked to them without results, and finally turned the tally book over to Dennis. After awhile, the boys called Dennis outside, and thinking that perhaps the boys meant to give him some trouble, Dennis shifted his gun holster around in prominent view, and stepped outside. For a moment the situation was tense, but everybody relaxed when the boys apologized to Dennis for their behavior.

The Joe Beck and W. B. Kirchner families used to have a Mexican named Raphael who worked for them on their ranches. Raphael was a very good ranch hand, but was full of fire, and occasionally carried a six-shooter. Fred Beck, on one occasion, had turned him in for carrying a gun. After that, there was bad feeling between the two men. One day they met on the street in Barksdale, and for a few minutes it appeared that trouble might arise from the meeting. Dennis interfered before any shooting took place, and arrested Raphael. W. B. Kirchner paid the fine for Raphael, which amounted to \$40.00 in the justice court of A. W. Ackerly.

One time, Ed Holmes and Ed Shields had a fight on the streets of Barksdale. Ed Holmes knocked Ed Shields down and was preparing to clean up the ground with him, when Dennis came up and separated the two.

On another occasion, some fellow got Proc Webb down and was in the act of hitting him on the head with a big rock when Dennis rode up and pulled the man off of Proc.

Albert Perkins says that the second year he went to school on Hackberry, Mary Matthews was the teacher. Albert says she was on the thrashing side. The schoolhouse burned down that year before the term was over and they finished the school in a tent. The next year they put up a new building near the McCurty flat, close to the Jim Hunter house. Some of the children who attended this term were the three McCurty girls, Oscar Hext and his sisters, Verna, Mildred, and Blanche, and the Perkins children.

Albert remembers that his folks did most of their trading in Uvalde. They made two or three trips a year, and the usual time required for a trip was four or five days unless the roads were muddy. They hauled pecans and mohair, and brought back supplies for the home and the ranch. He says

there weren't many goats in the country then. The people raised cattle and farmed, raising some cotton, which they had ginned in Barksdale and marketed in Uvalde. The neighbors were the Hicks', the Merritts, a Baptist preacher named Jackson, and the Billy and Wiley Welch families. Another Baptist preached named Lewis also lived on the river.

The Waddells lived on the old Ditch place that later belonged to the Clymer family. Mrs. Hunter and the Haynes boys lived on the old Perkins place.

Albert remembers that they used to have horse races every Sunday on McCurty Flat. People in the Hackberry and Vance communities would meet there and match their horses.

Mrs. Mamie Powers says that, when she was eighteen years old, she taught a private school at the Win Parkerson ranch northwest of Rocksprings.

Terry Hill says that in 1896 he and his father and C. O. Dodson were going out to cut a bee tree near the Hill ranch. Terry was carrying the axe, and slipped and fell on it, cutting his knee badly. They rushed Terry to the house, and Jim Taylor volunteered to go to Rocksprings for a doctor. Jim struck a blizzard on his way to town, and was almost frozen to death when he reached Rocksprings. Dr. Robertson came down, in a hack drawn by a span of big bay horses, to the Hill ranch at Pecan Springs.

Soon after this accident, the Hill family moved into the Ramsey house in Barksdale, where they could be near the doctor. Terry recovered under the care of Dr. Jackson.

Dr. Robertson accomplished two missions on his trip to the Hill ranch. He was able to give emergency aid to Terry's cut knee, and he went directly from there to Uvalde where he got married.

Terry says that he and Tommy Barnes became fast friends while the Hill family was in Barksdale.

In 1896, Math Taylor put up a sawmill in Vance. Not long after that, Henry Wells put up a gristmill on his place at Vance.

In 1896, Joe Ash moved to Vance, bought a lot from Henry Wells, and put up a store across the street from the Captain Wallace store. He also operated a beer joint in the town. He married Della Stanton while living in Vance.

Albert Wells states that he went to school one term to Molly Chant.

When Bud Yost finished his ranch home on Bullhead, he gave a big dance, and people came from all over the country to the housewarming. Buck Green and O. C. Pope furnished the music, and another man beat on one of the fiddles with a stick to imitate a guitar. Hal Pannell and Vol Ross did the calling.

In 1896, the George Taylor family gave a big wedding party at their place on Pulliam. The occasion was the wedding of their daughter, Nadine, to Eli Jones of Barksdale. A large crowd of friends and relatives were gathered to witness the ceremony, and to attend the dance that followed the wedding supper. After the wedding, a big supper was served to the guests, and later in the evening the couples began to group themselves and dance to the music of Joe Chant, who had been engaged for the occasion. Joe says he made five dollars that night playing for the dance.

Another wedding occurred in the Canyon shortly after the Jones-Taylor marriage. J. F. (Jim) Rhodes was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Russell, a charming young Canyon schoolteacher. Miss Russell had just finished teaching two terms of school in the Cedar Creek community.

Another prominent Barksdale couple was married in 1896. Will Threadgill was married to Alice Pope in a beautiful wedding ceremony in the John Pope home. A big crowd gathered to wish the young couple a happy married life, and to enjoy the old southern hospitality of the Pope family.

Mrs. John Pope was a very unique and interesting character. Back in Alabama, she had come from a fine old southern family, and counted many doctors among her ancestors. Mrs. Pope had made a study of midwifery in Alabama, and her knowledge of medicine served her well on many occasions after the Popes moved to the Canyon. She was very often called on emergency cases, and wouldn't take the time to saddle her own pony, but would grab her medicine kit, jump upon the saddle behind the other rider, and gallop away in an effort to beat the stork.

The Young family came to Edwards County in 1895. The first ranching they did was on Cade Hollow on Hackberry. The next year they ranched on Polecat on Pulliam Creek, and the following year Ed Young and his brother, Harry, leased the Sam Grantland place now owned by the Whitworth family. They lost their lease on this ranch in one year when it was sold to Ellis and Henry Guthrie. These ranches were not fenced, and the Young cattle kept trying

to go back to the place south of town. Mrs. Young helped the men herd the cattle until they got used to the Grantland ranch. She always watched the cattle to keep the stray cattle from the waterholes while their cattle drank. Mrs. Young always rode sidesaddle when she rode horseback. During this time, she cooked for all the ranchmen and cowboys who came to the ranch.

At that time, the Young brothers had a meat market in Rocksprings. Mr. Harry Young tended to the market, and Ed Young saw that the market was supplied with beef. One day, when both men were working at the market, a tramp came to the ranch house and demanded something to eat. He frightened Mrs. Young, so she loaded the table with food and left him eating while she walked to town, a distance of six miles.

Sam Grantland's sons, Rob and Jim, used to spend the weekends at the ranch, arriving after school was out. One morning, Jim could not find one of his socks, and during the day, they saw it on the tail of the windmill. They finally decided that Jim had been walking in his sleep, and had put it there.

But going back to the year that the Youngs were on Cade Hollow, the Silas Rawls family were their nearest neighbors, being only a mile from the Youngs. They visited back and forth often during the year. Dr. Frank Rawls, of Cristoval, Texas, is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Silas Rawls. Once a month, a preacher by the name of Barnett held services at the little Methodist Church on Hackberry, and Mrs. Young says she doesn't remember ever missing one of those services. She rode horseback from her home to the church. The nearest other neighbors of the Youngs were Mr. and Mrs. Ammon Billings, who had what is now known as the Juhan Jenkins ranch. Ranchers in the Cade Hollow area were troubled with bears, wolves and panthers. They kept hearing a panther scream, and one night it killed a two-year-old colt near the Young house. The ranchers were never able to track down the panther before it disappeared.

Mrs. Young ate her first meal in Rocksprings at the home of Mrs. C. E. Franks, when she and Mrs. Rawls rode to town and visited that day in the Frank's home. After Mr. Young bought the McBee ranch, which is now called the Duncan ranch, the Ed Youngs moved to that place.

In the fall of 1897, the Sarah Smith family moved to Barksdale. Mrs. Smith came to the Canyon with her daugh-

ter, Sarah. Mr. Smith was living in the Indian Territory, which is now the State of Oklahoma. Charles H. Smith was a native of England and came to the United States in time to enter the Civil War on the side of the Confederacy.

The Smiths came to Uvalde by rail, and made the trip from there to Barksdale in a wagon. Bud Field, Mrs. Smith's brother, met the family in Uvalde and moved the household goods to Barksdale for them.

Mrs. Smith bought a little house from Mary Matthews on the block just south of the Fleischer house. This little cabin, at one time, had been the post office building.

Sarah Smith, the daughter, says she cried almost all the way from Freestone County to Barksdale. She had a pet dog and a cat back there, and her mother wouldn't let her bring them along.

Bud Field gave the family \$100 when they arrived in Barksdale. Mrs. Smith took the money and bought a little bunch of goats, and the income from that flock, supplemented by the wages she earned by washing clothes for people in the neighborhood, provided a meager income for the family. Sarah Smith's mother had come to the country with them.

Sarah, the daughter, went to school her first term in Rocksprings. Prof. Toole was her first teacher in Barksdale.

In 1897, Amos and Becky Routh moved to Edwards County with their family of eleven children: Rosa, Zula, John, Frank, Travis, Andy, Mart, Lave, Cal, Charley, and Willie. The first few months after their arrival in Edwards County, were spent on the Divide. They later moved down to Hackberry and bought a place on Perkins Hollow from John and Cap Matthews. Some of the people who were neighbors of the Rouths were the Crooms, the Hexts, the Merritts, the Hicks', the Waddells, the Hockers, John Ben-skin, C. L. Smith, John Colwell, Dan Colwell, Brother Jackson, the Billings', the Allbrights, the McCurtys, the Eatons, the Stewarts, the Perkins', and the Burlesons. John Baxter lived at Stoner Waterhole just below the Routh place. Ike Williams lived over the hill at Walnut Springs and Dan Ross lived at the mouth of Perkins Hollow.

The Rouths did their trading at the city of Kerrville. Mr. Routh was a freighter and hauled freight between Rocksprings and Kerrville. He hauled wool to Kerrville from as far west as the Devil's River.

The old-timers say that Amos Routh fought with Quan-

trell's men. He was a unique character, a frontier product with plenty of spirit and fire in his character.

The Paul Jones family moved to Rocksprings in 1897. Mr. Jones had the mail contract between Laguna and Rocksprings, and Mrs. Jones operated the Ranchmen's Hotel.

Robert Raney was seriously injured on his father's ranch north of Barksdale in 1897, when the bronc pony, which he was breaking, threw him out of the saddle and dragged him some distance. The fall and the dragging together broke both of Robert's hips. The breaks continued to worsen, and Mr. Raney finally carried Robert to Dr. Herff in San Antonio for examination and treatment. Dr. Herff sent him back home and told him to start riding and to use a saddle with long stirrups. This treatment eventually overcame Robert's lameness.

In 1897, G. C. Woodson, A. B., was principal of the Gem City Academy in Rocksprings. Miss Lou Etheridge had charge of the primary department, and Mrs. J. J. Gill taught instrumental music.

The two months' spring term opened on May 3, 1897, and closed June 24.

Courses of study offered were mathematics, natural sciences, history and literature, bookkeeping, Latin, Greek, Spanish, and the teacher's Normal Course.

Tuition and board were as follows:

Primary branches, per month, \$2.00; Intermediate branches, \$2.25; Higher branches, \$2.50; Teacher's Normal Course, \$4.00; Instrument Music, \$3.50; board from \$8.00 to \$12.00.

During the eight months' term of that year in the Rocksprings free school, 120 pupils were enrolled; a Lyceum, and a school paper, the *Philomathean*, had been established. A school museum was begun; window curtains were bought for the building; an eight-inch globe, and Chambers' Encyclopedia in twenty volumes, were purchased for the school; a two-hundred-volume library was collected, and numbers of other items were collected for the school.

W. W. Arnett was proprietor of the Rocksprings *Rustler* in 1897.

The Lon Welch family moved in 1897 from the Barksdale community to Leakey. Ira Welch says he attended his first school there on the first floor of the old Masonic Lodge building.

In 1897, the J. D. Lacey family moved to Dry Creek, and

settled below the Hazelwood ranch near the headwaters, after a two-year stay in Gillespie County. There were eleven children in this family: Dee, Lock, Marion, Emily, Haley, Lula, Virgil, Josie, Mamie, Leo and Leonard.

Lock Lacey, one of the older boys in the family, was married to Delia Yancey in 1897. The Yanceys, at that time, lived on the old Etheridge place on the east bank of the river below Arnold Crossing.

In 1897, O. C. Pope and Dee Wallace went to Kansas with a trail herd. They first went to Alpine, Texas, and stayed there awhile with a Mrs. DeGow. They decided to go from there to the XIT ranch in the Panhandle, but had to sell their saddles before they could make the trip. They took a job on the XIT to help with a trail herd, and Ocie says those were big times but hard ones. The cowboys called him "Jinete" or "Horseman." They recognized him as a tenderfoot, and they roped him out a bad bronc as soon as he started work. Ocie rode the horse, and never was thrown; in fact, he earned his title of "The Horseman" while working on that job.

In 1897, Ocie returned to Edwards County to get married. He had long been courting one of the Canyon girls, a very beautiful young lady named Ethel Green, a daughter to Uncle Buck Green. The wedding day had arrived. The ceremony was performed in the Buck Green home at 11:00 o'clock in the morning. Ethel says that just the family connection was there, but she remembered that Lizzie Thompson and Bill Reagan came to the wedding. The couple was married by Brother Elliot, a Baptist preacher, who lived down the river a few miles below the Greens. Ethel remembers that they had a big dinner, and that the family had cooked a five-gallon can of snap beans. She goes on to say that someone told her about a remark they heard about having beans on one's wedding day. She said that someone must have been her.

After the wedding, the two young people moved to the head of Spring Creek. Ocie traded around and got hold of a wagon, sold his wedding suit to his brother Dennis for a cow or two, and that was the way they got started. They bought E. B. Cox's lease on the ranch where they located. A. J., a brother to E. B. Cox, had, a few months before, married Laura Green, one of Ethel's sisters. Ethel says that Mr. Cox had a good cotton crop on the place, which she and Ocie received in the trade.

They bought their household furniture in Uvalde, for \$50.00. Ethel had her own mattresses and quilts. They lived at that place 'till 1900.

In 1897, a double wedding took place on Cedar Creek. George Chant, son of Mrs. Cody Roberts, and Verdie Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hill, were one couple. J. W. Crider, a local schoolmaster, and Lydia Roberts, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cody Roberts, were the other couple. The double wedding ceremony was performed in the Roberts home on Cedar Creek. Many friends and relatives gathered to witness the rites, and to wish the young couples happiness. A big supper was served to the guests after the ceremony. Among the guests present were Joe Sweeten, of Barksdale, and Pleas Jones, of Rocksprings.

Jess Roberts and family moved to the Wofford place on Bullhead in 1897.

Nan Newman and Dan Colwell were married in Del Rio in 1897. Justice of the Peace Green Griner performed the ceremony. The couple came to the Hackberry community after the wedding to see about a location there.

Frank Casey and Annie Cromeans were married in 1897 in the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Cromeans. The wedding ceremony was performed by Preacher Vess, a Methodist minister. The families celebrated the wedding with a big supper. The newlyweds later moved to the Jim Daly place above Barksdale, where they prepared to make their home.

Zac Eppler remembers that when he was still just a big kid, the people had a big camp meeting on Bullhead, and Bro. Ace Matthews was doing the preaching. The people had built an arbor, and were using split logs for benches. All the neighborhood had gathered there to hear Bro. Matthews preach. One night, there was an unusually large crowd, and the mothers had their small children and their babies on pallets in a circle around the preacher's platform. Just to have some fun, Zac says, he put some hi-life on a dog, thinking that the dog would go down the road toward Vance. Instead, the dog headed straight for the preacher's platform. The people thought the dog was mad, and made a wild rush to get out of its way, turning over benches and running over children in the process. Zac says the preacher never could get the meeting started again. The arbor was across the creek from the mouth of New Creek on Bullhead.

One of the earliest building contractors in Edwards

County was Nathan U. Braley, who located his offices in Rocksprings soon after the county seat was established there. He did much of the building work in that area.

Herman Fleischer, Sr., was one of the first men to operate a saloon in Rocksprings. He called his establishment "The Buckhorn Saloon," and it was located on the south side of the courthouse square.

Rufus Kirchner, and Miss Ruth Matthews, a couple well-known in the Canyon area, were united in marriage in October, 1898. The wedding took place at the home of Mr. Tom Young on Pulliam; the bride's father, Rev. D. W. Matthews, performed the ceremony.

In 1897, the W. A. Shockley family moved to Edwards County and settled on Camp Wood Creek. Mr. Shockley was married to Rosa Woodward on October 28, 1886, and the Woodward family came into the country with the Shockleys, and were neighbors to them on Camp Wood Creek.

The first Cemetery Association for Rocksprings was formed in 1897. Mrs. P. F. Robertson was elected president, and Miss Dot Harris, secretary. Other members were Miss Tommy Brown, Mrs. Z. C. Wilson, and Mrs. Minnie France.

In 1897, Dr. P. F. Robertson donated land for a Church of Christ building. A frame structure, 24'x40', was put up in 1897.

Lady Sweeten remembers that her father, Loss Alexander, lived a year or two in the Vance community, working first for Bud Yost, and then for John Parkerson on the river below Vance. The children attended school in Barksdale. The family later moved to Barksdale, and located in a house on Main Street north of the Barnes store. She went to school in Barksdale to J. W. Crider. Among her schoolmates were the Raneys, the Kirchners and the Jones'. She recalls that Mr. Jones was driving the mail hack from Laguna to Rocksprings at that time. Mr. Jones would have breakfast at Whitecottons below Montell. He would then come up the Canyon with the mail, making his second stop at Barksdale, and from there, go on to Rocksprings.

Jerry Burleson says he started to school in 1897. Drennal Alexander taught the Vance School that year.

In 1897, the Simon Smith family lived about nine miles above Vance, on the main fork of Bullhead Creek. There were several children in the Smith family. Gus Haynes married one of the girls. Oscar Smith married Beulah Locklar,

and Jess Smith was a Goat Association Ranger for several years.

A public watering place near the town well, where the local livestock could get water, was made available to the residents of Rocksprings after the town was first established. A nominal fee was charged for the service. A number of the townspeople got in arrears with their water rent, so J. B. Chandler, the owner of the town's water system, closed the watering place to the public stock, with the warning that no more stock could be watered there until satisfactory arrangements were made, and past due accounts were settled.

T. D. Lovelady was the local tonsorial artist in the town of Rocksprings in 1898. His barber shop was located one door west of the Buckhorn saloon.

Mrs. M. Buswell operated a hotel in Rocksprings in 1898. Her establishment was a stopping place for local ranchers and out-of-town people, and court days, especially, were always a rush-time for her culinary department. Her hotel and restaurant was located one block west of the square.

McDonald and French, Rocksprings merchants, had a half-section of land outside the town limits of Rocksprings in 1898, and had equipped it with barbecue pits and tables for the use of the people in holiday seasons. Many of the big barbecues and rodeos were staged there in the early days.

A large crowd was attracted to the town square of Rocksprings in October, 1898, by a fire that had started there. The group was then given a demonstration of a new fire extinguisher that had been purchased by the town, the fire having been started by local officers for that purpose.

Lee Arnett was Rocksprings' local blacksmith in 1898. G. W. Ragan was the town's jeweler, and had his shop in the Newton and Smart store building. He later moved it into the Sweeten Hotel.

D. A. McGonagill was one of several practicing attorneys in Rocksprings in 1898. Sam Hough and John Hill were other Rocksprings lawyers.

Ab Benton operated a butcher shop in the town, where he sold beef, sausage, bacon, lard, and sugar-cured hams.

Charles F. Annis was pastor of the Rocksprings Methodist Church in 1898.

W. F. Sanford was editor of the Rocksprings *Rustler*, the local newspaper, in 1898.

Warren, McDonald and Company enlarged their store

in 1898. After the addition, the store contained two separate rooms, 40'x100', besides a warehouse.

The Gem City Academy opened in Rocksprings in September, 1898, with an enrollment of 111 students; Prof. Broyles was principal and Miss Kerr and Miss Clymer were his assistants.

Dr. Ash, merchant of Barksdale in 1898, was also the local banker.

Members on the grand jury list for Edwards County's September, 1898 term of court were: D. D. Thompson, Dave Elms, J. J. Ellis, J. H. Coleman, A. W. Merritt, S. J. Shanklin, J. H. Dobbins, J. I. Jones, A. A. McDonell, M. Z. Weaver, D. W. Parker, J. L. Nix, S. W. McLaughlin, Henry Wells, C. E. Franks, and J. F. Beck.

The petit jury panel included: Sam Field, W. T. Harris, M. P. Dannelly, J. A. Barnes, J. A. Sanford, R. Barber, John Ralston, T. H. B. Lovelady, S. W. Watkins, J. N. Whitworth, J. C. Twiney, Ed Custer, James Rhodes, J. C. Wren, George Taylor, Ad Harris, B. Green, Gus West, B. M. Smart, John Shackelford, Frank Barksdale, W. D. Dulaney, Henry Baldwin, A. H. Cox, W. J. Greer, Mam Guthrie, Henry Wood, W. T. Anderson, John Chapman, J. E. Ragsdale, Thomas Remley, J. T. Gaines, C. H. Jarvis, H. Godbold, J. H. Jump, Frank Winans, Ed Draper, W. S. McReynolds, O. G. Coalson, and C. W. Arthur.

Ed (Froggy) Adams was born June 22, 1891, to Mr. and Mrs. E. Varly of Devine, Texas. His mother died when he was one hour old, and at her request the baby was placed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Adams. Ed grew up bearing the Adams name, and when he was seven years old, Mr. and Mrs. Adams moved to Rocksprings. That was in 1898, the same year that Admiral Dewey won the Battle of Manila in the Spanish-American War. The Adams family came to Edwards County in covered wagons, driving a small bunch of cattle on the way. They had to burn pear for the cattle every evening, and one afternoon, while Ed was chopping up the pear, a big bunch fell on his foot, running a large thorn deep into the instep of his foot. That laid him up for several days and he had to stay in the wagon for the rest of the trip.

When the family arrived in Rocksprings, it was raining hard, and they stopped at the Arnett blacksmith shop, where the old waterworks used to stand, and a man came out by the name of Olie Coblin. He told Mr. Adams there was a vacant house just east of town known as the Old Rawls

House. The family drove the teams on out to the Rawls place, where they found shelter for the night. The house was just an old picket cabin covered with *sacahuiste* grass, but it made a good roof over their heads. It was full of goats, and smelled like a goat shed, but Mr. Adams built up a fire and soon had the hut comfortable. Mrs. Adams didn't want to get out in the weather any more, so they stayed there several months.

The older Adams children, Lula, Walter, and Grover, went to school in Rocksprings, but Ed was too young to go. However, he was old enough to remember when Bob Fitzsimmons and James J. Corbett fought for the world championship title, and he says he got a big thrill when his father told him about it.

Ed says he didn't have anything to do but play, and he always played ranching. One day he had his playhouse out a good distance from the house and had built up a big fire to brand his cattle (the weather was cold, too) which he had bunched up around his branding corral. His cattle were cobs and cow horns. Finally he decided to go to the house and get him a chew of tobacco. His father chewed tooth-picks, so Ed slipped out half a plug, took a big chew, and went back to branding his cattle. He didn't quite finish his branding job, since he got so sick that he barely made it to the house. He didn't tell his mother what he had done, so she put him to bed and began giving him medicine. When Grover came in from school, she sent him to round up the cows so Ed could have some sweet milk for his supper. He whispered to Grover what he had done, and Grover told Mrs. Adams, and Ed didn't get any more attention from then on.

The Street Gilmer family moved to Edwards County from Kerrville, Texas, in 1898, and settled in Rocksprings. Mr. Gilmer bought the Julian J. Gill drugstore, the only one in Rocksprings. Mr. Gilmer, in 1898, in partnership with Mr. Comparette of Kerrville, had built the first long-distance line into Rocksprings, and installed his office in the Newton and Smart store.

The county commissioner for precinct number 1 in Edwards County, in 1896, was J. C. Field, and J. J. Ellis was county commissioner for precinct number 2, Henry Wells for precinct number 3, J. L. Lockley for precinct 4.

Rev. V. G. Thomas was pastor of the Rocksprings Methodist Church in 1896, Bro. Baldwin was the Baptist pastor, and John R. Durst the Christian Church pastor.

The Len Clark family moved to Edwards County in 1898 from Kerr County. Len's parents, Jack and Elizabeth Clark, moved to Kerrville when Len was two years old. Jack Clark died in Kerrville, and Mrs. Clark remarried. The Clarks settled on the Black ranch north of Rocksprings.

Len's father had served in the Civil War on the Confederate side. After the war, like many other southern families, the Clarks moved West, and settled in the Guadalupe country near Kerrville where they engaged in the ranching business for many years. There were two boys in the Clark family, Hardy and Len, and two girls, Minnie Clark and Mrs. Zuberbeiler. The Clark children were educated in San Antonio and Kerrville.

Officers who were elected for Edwards County in 1898 were: J. L. Lockley, sheriff; Sam Hough, county attorney; Herman Fleischer, county surveyor; T. C. Young, commissioner, precinct number 2; D. W. Pope, constable, precinct number 2; and A. W. Ackerly, justice of the peace, precinct number 2.

At the May, 1898, session of the Edwards County Commissioners Court, a petition was presented by the citizens of the Vance and Bullhead communities for a road from Vance up Bullhead to the Kelly O'Leary ranch, and on to the Dietert ranch to connect with the Rocksprings-Kerrville road.

In 1898, the exchange of the Rocksprings Telephone Company was moved from the Newton and Smart store to the Gilmer drugstore, and installed there. Work was begun on lines to ranches over the county.

The first literary club was organized in Rocksprings in October, 1898. The following officers were elected: Prof. D. C. Broyles, president; Miss Annie Kerr, first vice-president; Lee Arnett, second vice-president; Leonard Lockley, treasurer; Miss Elma Haby, chaplain. Will Arnett and Misses Inez Benton and Emma Lockley were appointed on the program committee. The aim of the club was to advance the social, moral, and intellectual welfare of its members.

Edwards County's wool production in 1898 was 111,168 pounds.

Mrs. Mary Weaver took over the office of postmaster of Rocksprings on October 1, 1898.

Ranchmen in the Divide country used to do most of their trading with the Charles Schreiner Company of Kerrville. They would send in their wagon trains to town twice a

year. They would take in wool and mohair and bring back groceries and supplies for the ranch and the household.

The following is a list of some of the prices from old bills that Mrs. Bob Corder of Rocksprings has in her possession.

Charles Schreiner Store
December 5, 1898:

Seventy-five pounds beans at 3 cents, \$2.19; 600 pounds of flour, at \$2.20, \$14.30; 7 yards duck, \$.85; 2 yards oilcloth, \$.30; 2 yards pillow ticking, \$2.16; 2 ladies' capes at \$5.10, 2 pairs blankets, \$9.50; 16 yards flannel, \$1.00; 6 yards French flannel, \$1.80; 1 pair boots, \$3.75, shoes, \$1.40; 30 bushels corn at \$.40, \$12.00; 5 gallons pickles, \$1.75; 2 dozen pie plates, \$1.80; 2 dozen canned tomatoes, \$1.70; 100 pounds sugar, \$6.00; 133 pounds green coffee, at 11½ cents, \$15.30; 59 pounds cotton (calico) at 5 cents, \$2.95; 3 boxes shoe tacks, \$.25; 1 coat, \$4.00; axe handle, \$1.00; 1 brush axe, \$1.25. The total bill came to \$132.91 and contained other items.

Bill Carter was the first settler of Carta Valley, making his home there in 1898. Soon afterwards, R. A. Winn, Jim Burts, and the Koontz family came in.

The Rocksprings Baptist Church was organized in June, 1898, at the close of a revival held in the schoolhouse. Rev. D. W. Matthews was called as the first pastor. There were seventeen charter members; Miss Lula Adams is the only living charter member at this date, 1959. The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Field, Mrs. J. F. Gaines, Mrs. W. T. Anderson, Mrs. John Bartley, Miss Dora Bartley, Mrs. Sam Weaver, Miss Minnie Weaver, Mrs. Bessie Wren, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Chandler, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Adams, Miss Lula Adams, and J. L. Barnes.

A committee was appointed to see what could be raised on the pastor's salary. \$100 was pledged for the year. Bro. Matthews accepted the amount offered, and supplemented his salary by milking cows and selling milk. On the Sundays he didn't preach in Rocksprings, he walked to the Canyon to fill appointments, leaving Rocksprings usually on Saturday afternoon.

The Clymer girl taught school in the Hackberry community and also in Rocksprings.

Mrs. Viny Wallace, wife of Capt. W. W. Wallace, of the

Vance community, died in 1898. Mrs. Wallace was a long-time postmistress of Vance, having received the appointment when the name of the town was called Bullhead. Lee Wallace sold his mercantile business in Rocksprings, and came to Vance to help his father in the store there. He operated the store for a short time, then sold out to Vol Ross and moved to Barksdale with his father, and his brother Jim.

In 1898, Mrs. J. M. Reddick was unable to finish the school term at Vance and the Board of Trustees engaged Miss Mamie Beck of Barksdale to finish out the term.

In 1898, the Ed Hill family moved to New Mexico, and spent a few months in the Capitan Mountains. Mr. Hill had recently dissolved his partnership with Sam Raney. The two partners owned jointly about 1400 head of cattle. Mr. Hill sold his half to a cattle buyer in the country.

In 1898, the Cody Roberts family moved from Four Mile Prairie on Hackberry to Cedar Creek. Some of the Roberts children had already married and moved away. Soon after the family settled on the place, known for years as the Old Home Place, other members of the family began courtships, and other weddings took place. Cora Roberts married Walker Sharp, Luther married Cordie Stout, a neighbor girl, Laura married Sam Taylor, George married Verdie Hill, and Lydia married J. W. Crider, a schoolteacher. Laura and Lydia were twins. At one time, all these couples lived on Cedar Creek within a radius of six or seven miles of each other.

In 1898, the Jim Browns sold their ranch on Lost Creek and moved to Barksdale. Mr. Brown bought a 3000-acre ranch east of Barksdale, which included the Ira Wheat place, the B. Stieber ranch, and the land from other parties.

In 1898, Ote Coalson, M. D. Sharp, and L. M. Pullen took three wagons and teams and made a trip to Uvalde. They loaded out their wagons, and on the return trip, ran into a hard blizzard. They camped that night at White-cottons. It was terribly cold. The next morning, the sky had cleared and they continued their trip. When they got to Arnold Crossing, the river was frozen over so hard that they drove their wagons across on the ice. The temperature fell to four degrees below zero during that spell.

In 1899, the Edwards County Commissioners Court set the county ad valorem rate at \$.20 on the hundred dollars valuation, the road tax at \$.20, the interest and sinking fund at \$.25, and special tax, \$.05.

The court also voted to call an election for the purpose of voting on a proposed \$5500 bond issue to build a courthouse and a jail. The old courthouse had burned down and most of the records had been destroyed.

Dr. Ash, Jim Brown, and Joe Beck were appointed to hold the election in Barksdale.

In 1899, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Marshall and their two children, O. T. and Florine, moved from Llano, Texas, and settled in the Divide country east of Rocksprings. This was the establishment of the now well-known Marshall ranch. The east fence of the Marshall ranch, in 1899, was the last fence going west from Rocksprings. Shortly after the arrival of the Marshalls, E. P. went to Bandera and bought a bunch of cows and drove them to the ranch. They kept the calves up and milked the cows to locate them. They fenced their ranch with three strands of barbed wire. Later they added goats and then sheep and herded the flocks. In place of the three strands of barbed wire, they put up net wire fences, as did the other ranchers.

A post office was established at the Marshall ranch, called Lula, Texas. It was also a stage stop on the long drive from Rocksprings to Kerrville. Another stage stop on the route was Bone Yard along the headwaters of the Guadalupe.

One of the most interesting early characters in the Canyon was a Baptist preacher named Jackson. He lived on a little ranch on Hackberry. He rode around the country on horseback to the various ranches, and to Vance, Barksdale and Rocksprings to hold his services. He preached quite often in the Vance and Hackberry communities. His house made of cedar pickets, where he lived with his wife and thirteen children, still stands across from Camp Eagle on Hackberry.

In 1899, D. C. Broyles became owner and editor of the Rocksprings newspaper.

On May 1, 1899, Mrs. A. M. Fisher became postmistress of Barksdale. Mrs. Fannie Stieber became the postmistress of Rocksprings on November 17, 1899, a post she held for thirty-six years.

H. T. Harris was the pastor of the Rocksprings Methodist Church in 1899. D. W. Matthews was pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church.

Bob Dawson operated a harness and saddle shop in Rocksprings in 1899. Other new businesses in the town were the Young Meat Market, the Frank Maples Barber

Shop, the Brink and Sanford Furniture Store, and the Stanley and Anderson Grain House.

Dr. Dorn, Edwards County dentist, had offices in Barksdale and Rocksprings in 1899.

Terry Hill says that while he was living in Barksdale, he and his daddy and Dr. Cross were together somewhere in the town and he kept asking Dr. Cross questions about things and finally Mr. Hill got after him for interrupting so much. Dr. Cross told him to let the boy ask questions, that that was the way for him to learn about things.

In 1899, the W. H. Ash store in Barksdale had the following prices to offer: Sea Island domestic, 4 cents per yard; best domestic, yard wide, 5 cents per yard; best cotton plaids, 5 cents per yard; best calicoes, 5 cents per yard; gents' dress shirts, from 35 cents up; men's heavy grey socks, at 85 cents per dozen; ladies' heavy grey and black hose at \$1.04 per dozen; ladies' vests from 6 cents to 25 cents; buttons of all kinds, 2 cents to 9 cents per dozen; ladies' capes, nice fur trim, at 98 cents; an assortment of extra fine capes at \$1.47 to \$1.97; men's cashmere suits; vest, coat, pants, and a daisy for \$2.98; men's fine hats from 92 cents up; the best raw-edge John B. Stetson hats for \$4.98; men's dress shoes for \$1.00 and up.

In the grocery department; best patent flour, \$1.10 per 100 pounds; coffee, 10 cents per pound; sugar by the barrel, \$6.55; Mexican Bayo Beans, 21½ cents per pound.

Bro. Durst was pastor of the Rocksprings Christian Church in 1899.

Dr. Cross was a practicing physician in Barksdale in 1899.

Miss Lavina Vogel taught the Maverick School in 1899.

Prof. Toole, Lee Winans, Miss Lutetia Ponton, and Miss Lady Alexander were awarded teachers' certificates by the Edwards County Board of Examiners, in August, 1899.

H. T. Harris, Methodist minister, preached two Sundays each month in Rocksprings, one Sunday at Barksdale, and one Sunday at the R. A. Winn ranch each month in 1899.

Lee Winans taught the Pulliam School in 1899.

F. M. York operated a dairy in Rocksprings in 1899, which he opened up for business in August of that year.

Two wells were drilled in Rocksprings in 1899 by the Rocksprings Water Supply Company, and \$2000 worth of machinery and pipe were purchased for installation at the new wells and over the town.

Of the sixteen teachers who took the examinations at the Summer Normal in Rocksprings in 1899, twelve secured their certificates.

J. D. Pepper was one of the most prominent goat raisers on the Divide in 1899. Mr. Pepper, up to that time, had been in the business of breeding fine Angora goats for about eighteen years. He procured his first goats from the well-known breeder, W. D. Parrish. Since that time, he had purchased goats from the Landrum flock of California, and Mr. Pepper's billies were considered among the best in the Divide area.

On October 4, 1899, John Clark, son of Mrs. Herman Fleischer, Sr., and Katie Long, daughter of William A. Long and Josephine Johnson Long, were united in marriage at the Weaver ranch on Lost Creek by Bro. Rutledge, Church of Christ minister. Both the bride and groom were members of the Church of Christ. The bride wore a long dress made of brocaded ivory silk. Her veil was complete with orange blossoms. A big wedding supper was prepared for the couple, as had been done for the older sisters in the family, but it rained so hard, and the rivers were so swollen, that many of those invited were unable to attend.

The young couple began their married life on the ranch of W. B. Kirchner, where they entered the ranching business, raising cattle, sheep, and goats.

John (Bunk) Wood recalls that, when he started to school on Pulliam, some of the other children who attended the school that year were the Hamricks, the Sam Fields, the Bud Fields, the Wallaces, the Benskins, the Mitchells, the Zumwalts, the Broomfields, the Kites, the Taylors, the Stillwells, and that the teacher was Mary Cupples. He remembers attending schools on Pulliam taught by T. S. Pickens, J. M. Reddick, and J. E. Friestman.

When Joe Chant lived with his mother on Cedar Creek, and after he had married, one of his children got very sick. Joe went immediately to Barksdale and called for Dr. Ash. Dr. Ash got in his buggy behind his fast team of greys, and followed Joe to the Roberts place on Cedar Creek. He arrived in time to save the child. This baby was Hallie, the oldest of the Chant children.

In 1896, an agreement was made between the Edwards County Commissioners Court and W. E. Kaye of Tarrant County, to act as agent to sell the Edwards County School

land in Hockley at a price of \$.85 an acre. This contract was made null and void on May 8, 1899.

The Sutherland families moved to the Nueces Canyon in the middle '90's. The Tom Sutherland family came first and settled near Vance. The Bob Sutherlands came in soon afterward and bought a ranch on the river above Arnold Crossing. Will Sutherland was the last of the three brothers to come into the country. He bought the Threadgill place below Arnold Crossing. These men had all married sisters in the Rogers family, and were also related to the E. L. Witt and Wells families who came into the Canyon about the same time. Mr. Witt had married a sister of the Sutherland men.

These families all engaged in the ranching business and raised cattle, sheep, and goats. The Witt family specialized in the raising of fine Angora goats, and after the turn of the century, achieved national recognition for the quality of their goat flocks, the foundation for the quality of their flocks having been imported from Turkey.

In 1899, a courtship of some months' standing ended with the marriage of D. W. (Dennis) Pope, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Pope, and Verdie Hamrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Hamrick. The couple were married at the home of the bride's parents on Pulliam Creek. The family of the bride entertained the guests with a supper and dance after the wedding. Bro. Rutledge, Church of Christ minister from Cedar Creek, performed the ceremony. The young couple established their first residence on a small place near the John Pope ranch.

In 1899, Carl Kirchner, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Kirchner of Barksdale, was united in marriage to Miss Mamie Beck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Beck. The wedding took place in San Antonio, and the young couple went from there to El Paso, Texas, to make their home.

In 1899, the Dr. A. M. Fisher family moved to Edwards County and settled in Barksdale. Dr. Fisher bought the Fleischer house there, and engaged Mr. Ward, of the Vance neighborhood, to remodel the building. Dr. Fisher came to the Canyon for his health. He was ill with tuberculosis, and after he found that the arid climate of the Canyon agreed with him, he sent back to Kentucky for his wife, and his son, Theo.

Dr. Fisher was a Church of Christ minister who had held pastorates in the North and the Northeast. He moved to Kentucky and married. He made the trip to Texas alone, and

after traveling over a good part of the state in search of health, finally decided to locate in the Canyon.

In 1899, they had a big protracted meeting in Rocksprings, and Ed Adams says his family attended every service, and that he himself got very religious. Ed says he was always digging post holes and making brush arbors down at the cow pen, and on one occasion he had his arbor just about finished and was putting the brush on top. Ed says he never did forget a word the preacher said during the meeting, and the notion struck him to do some preaching of his own while he was on the arbor. He was delivering his sermon with great enthusiasm all to himself when Mrs. Adams came along and heard him. She stopped to listen, and about that time a pole broke and Ed fell through to the ground. He says it was the first time his mother ever heard him "cuss," but she said she wouldn't whip him as he was doing such a good job preaching.

Soon after this incident, the Adams family bought twenty acres of land south of Rocksprings, and while Mr. Adams was building a house there for his family, they moved into another picket house known as the Armstrong place. Ed says his father built a nice picket house with a shingle roof and that the family lived there until the boys were big enough to work out. Ed went through the fourth grade and hired out to work for \$1.00 per day and board. He says he never went to school any more.

Will Arnett preached several sermons at the Green Mountain Schoolhouse on Cedar Creek during November, 1899, and said that some of the most hospitable people he had ever met lived there.

D. W. Matthews began a protracted meeting the first Sunday in November, 1899, in Rocksprings.

York's dairy in Rocksprings advertised the following prices on dairy products in November, 1899: Butter, 25 cents per pound; buttermilk, 10 cents per gallon; sweet milk, 5 cents per quart. Wagon at your door every morning.

Commissioners for Edwards County in 1899 were J. T. Dupre, precinct no. 1, T. C. Young, precinct no. 2, W. P. Rose, precinct no. 3 and C. G. Jarvis, precinct no. 4.

One of the first moving pictures to come to Barksdale was in 1899. Terry Hill says his folks carried him to see the show, which was entitled, "The Charge on San Juan Hill." Teddy Roosevelt had made this famous charge with his company of Rough Riders, and had emerged from the

Spanish-American War a national hero. Terry says the picture was very indistinct and jerky, but that it made a lasting impression on his memory.

In 1899, Gus Haynes operated a beer joint in Vance.

J. A. Dean came to Edwards County in 1900, and settled his family in Barksdale. Mr. Dean's purpose in coming to the Canyon was to put up a telephone system. The Deans were from Sweetwater, Texas, where Mr. Dean had operated a telephone company for a number of years. He sold his business there, and, with his son Jack, left Sweetwater, traveling by wagon, leaving Mrs. Dean and the four other children to wait until a location had been found. They looked around awhile, and decided to build some lines in Uvalde and Edwards counties.

The first plan was to build a line from Uvalde to Barksdale. A crew of men was soon engaged, and work was begun in securing right of way, cutting and hauling to location poles, and installing switchboards in the Canyon communities.

Squatters' sovereignty ended with the fall of 1900. Up until that time, possession of land was the only requirement. Deeds were rare and leases unknown.

Grass began to disappear and the cowmen started moving westward or changed to Angora goats. Open spaces in the valleys were cleared and cotton became a more important economic factor in the river areas. The gin that had been built in Barksdale in the '80's was ginning more bales of cotton each year. Ranchmen were finding out that cotton provided a cash income to the country, a commodity that, heretofore, had been hard to come by.

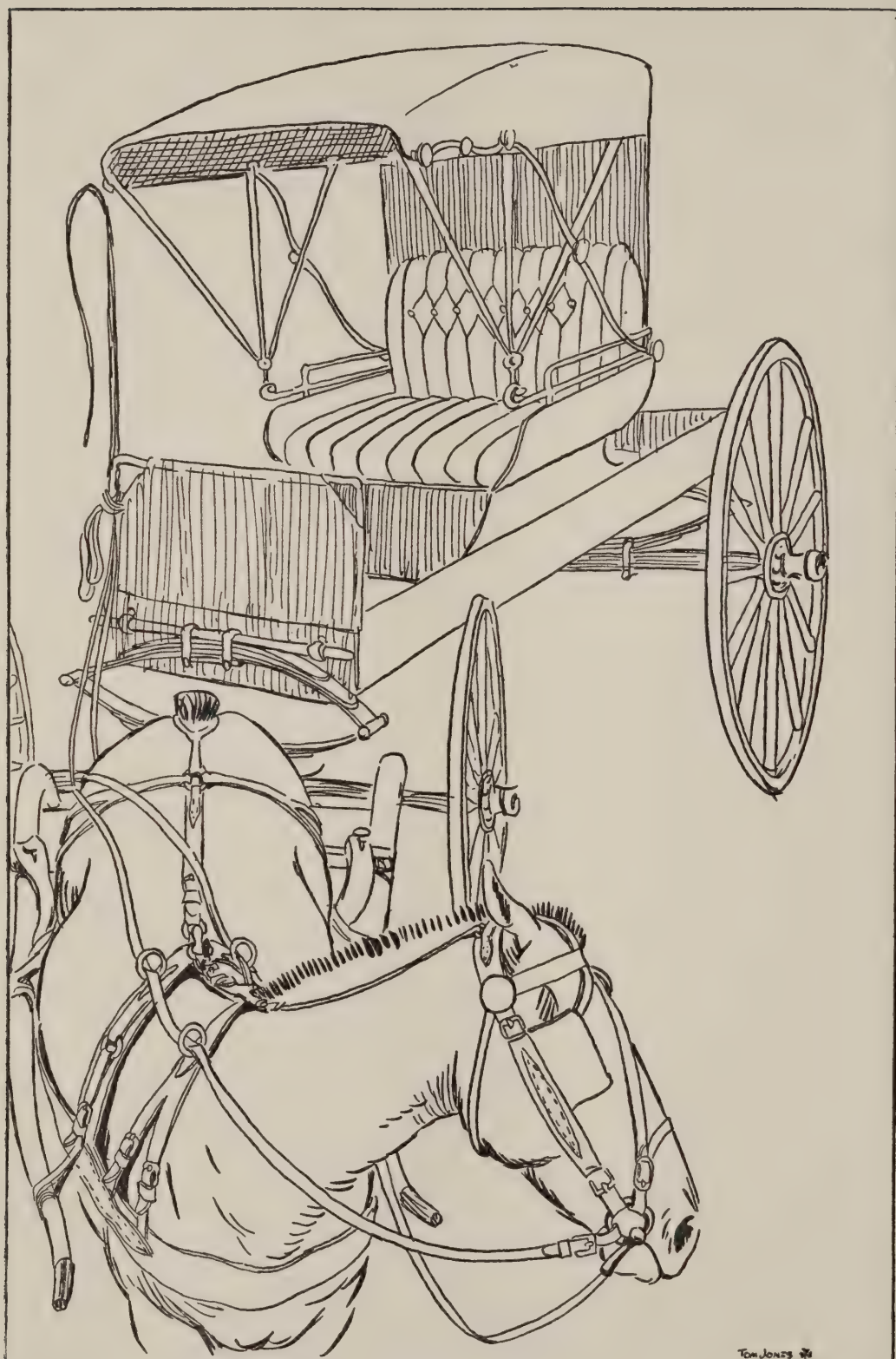
Live oak and shinnoak brush, and the Angora goat, became synonymous in the ranching country. From the first entry of these fine animals, they were the ranchman's backbone during good times, drought and depression.

Many names have been given to the Angora goat. It has been called "The Dollar-Maker," "Agriculture's Stepchild," and many others, but it produces the "Diamond Fiber," the most valuable of all textile fibers. Mohair, because of its beauty and longevity, is recognized as being superior to all others.

The history of the Angora goat is as old as the written records of man, when Moses of Biblical times held in high regard the mohair textiles.

Imported from Turkey 100 years ago, the Angora found a foothold on the Edwards Plateau which now produces about 95% of the world's production of mohair.

The American Angora Goat Breeders' Association, the only registered association of Angora goats in the world, is located in Rocksprings, county seat of Edwards County, truly the goat capital of the world.



CHAPTER VI

The Turn of the Century — 1900-1910

In 1900, Barksdale was a flourishing community of several hundred souls. It became of age when J. W. (Jim) Habermacher came in and set up the town's first printing establishment. Mr. Habermacher's paper was called *The Barksdale News*, and the building housing the printing presses and other equipment was located on the lot south of the Johnny Coalson Hotel.

Mr. Habermacher was a typical small town newspaper publisher, and was especially recognized for the quality of his editorial sheet. Very few bits of neighborhood gossip missed the keen eye and the listening ear of Jim Habermacher. On one occasion, he had gleaned a very special news item about John Seagraves, which, it appeared, was not the first time the latter's name had appeared in the columns of *The Barksdale News*, and Mr. Seagraves came in, considerably ired by the fact that he had been the subject of so much comment, and complained to the newspaper's editorial staff. "Every week," he said, "I see that you have my name in your paper. Now, I want you to stop such business. See that my name doesn't appear any more in your newspaper." Then Mr. Seagraves walked out, muttering something under his breath.

In September, 1900, the John Benskin family moved to Edwards County, where Mr. Benskin bought the Hosea Underwood ranch seven miles north of Rocksprings. The following year, he bought 7680 acres of land from W. R. Burt at \$1.03 per acre.

Joseph R. Sweeten became postmaster of Barksdale, December 11, 1900.

In 1900, the Billy Hutto family came to Edwards County and settled at Carta Valley, and shortly afterward the Ed Wheeler family came in and settled there. Soon other families came in, among which were the following families: W. W. Riggs, T. J. Coffman, Ed Carta, Jim Wilson, J. J. Dunkin, Jim York, J. D. Bricker, W. A. Varga, and John Rosenow.

The people of Carta Valley would meet in the different homes for church service, and the first preacher to visit Carta Valley was Bro. Huckle, a Baptist preacher, who went from place to place in a covered wagon.

The first few children went to school in the home of Mrs. Wilson, who was also their teacher. R. A. Winn later gave some land for the school, and a house was built for school purposes. The first teacher there was Harold Cook.

Land was donated by R. A. Winn for the cemetery, and the first person to be buried there was Ora Bricker, the eleven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Bricker. The little girl had been killed by a horse while going home after attending church in the W. W. Riggs home.

In 1900, a Methodist Church building and parsonage were erected in Rocksprings. The church building was used by all churches of the community as a place of worship. Mrs. Nora Dibrell was chairman of the first Bell Committee. The clapper of the church bell was blown away in the tornado of 1927, and was later found on the Little Epperson ranch, five miles north of Rocksprings.

In 1900, Alfred Nelson sold his ranching interests near Barksdale and moved to Arizona. Mrs. Nelson's father and mother, the McDonalds, were living there, and needed the help of their son-in-law, Mr. Nelson, in running their large cow ranch.

At the time Mr. Nelson decided to sell out, and leave Barksdale, he had about 100 head of cattle on his ranch below Vance. One day, while in Vance, he met Jim Wallace on the street, and tried to sell Jim his cattle. The season was dry, grass was scarce, and the cattle were poor. Mr. Nelson offered to sell his brand for \$300, so Jim bought the cattle and paid Mr. Nelson for them.

Captain Wallace was very particular about the trading and business affairs of his boys, so Mr. Nelson, knowing the Captain's habits in that respect, went to Captain Wallace and told him about the trade that had been made. Mr. Wallace thought that Jim had made a poor trade.

Jim got Millard and John Parkerson to help gather the cattle, and they gathered 150 head. Jim moved them to the headwaters of Camp Wood Creek where the range was fresh, and when the rainy season set in, the cattle began to get fat. One day, Millard Parkerson came by and offered Jim \$1000 for the cattle. So Jim topped out eighteen head of the best cows, and sold the others to Mr. Parkerson.

Jim Wallace was well-known in the Canyon country for his horsemanship. He was also known for his ability to train and ride race horses. He says that he has been thrown from horses many times, but has always managed to escape with minor bruises. He remembers one time, however, when he was working cattle on Terry Hollow, that he roped a big steer and the steer threw Jim's horse. Jim quit his horse but sprained his ankle in the fall. John and Millard Parker-son roped the steer and carried him into Vance for Jim.

W. J. Lockhart came to Edwards County in 1900 from Polk County. He spent the remainder of his life in the Vance section of the country. Mr. Lockhart was a civic-minded man. He helped to organize the Vance Literary Club, which functioned for many years, where many of the upstate orators made their debut. He stood for law and order, in a place and time when fearless and courageous men were needed. He was one of the most fearless men of his day. Through his numerous writings, he became known as "The Sage of the Hills." As a naturalist, he maintained a close walk with Nature. He introduced the Italian bee to the Canyon bee men, replacing the old native black bee.

His best literary efforts, perhaps, are seen in his "Adventures in Canyonland," a series of humorous episodes and incidents of early days in the Canyon.

On February 28, 1900, Scuff Raney got married. He and Miss Della May Jones had had a courtship of several months' standing. Scuff was the son of Sam and Mary Raney of Barksdale, and Miss Jones, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Jones. The wedding took place in the Ranchmen's Hotel in San Antonio, and the ceremony was performed by Rev. D. W. Matthews, Baptist minister of the Rocksprings, Barksdale, and Vance communities. The couple returned to Barksdale to make their home on the Raney ranch, where the groom was employed on his father's ranch.

In 1900, Lady Alexander taught in the Barksdale School. This was the first of four school terms she taught in the Canyon, two terms at Barksdale, and two at Vance. She recalls that some of her first pupils in Barksdale were George Raney, Cale Brown, Mart, Millard, Lee, and Tom Nelson; Terry, Maud and Edna Hill; Grace, Martha, Mena, and Ernest Kirchner, and her two sisters, Gladys and Mary Alexander.

In the spring of 1900, the Stillwell family moved from their place on Pulliam, and settled on the Welty place on

Cedar Creek. The Welty family had moved to New Mexico, just a few months before.

The Cloudt family moved to Edwards County in 1900 from Kimble County. The elder Cloudt and his five sons were in a partnership in the ranching business, and at one time owned 60,000 acres of land in Edwards County, on which as many as 15,000 head of cattle roamed at times.

In 1900, the Rube and Ab Barber families lived on McDonald Hollow on the East Prong of the Nueces. The distance to the nearest school was so great that the two families decided to move to a location where they could put their children in school. The Rube Barbers bought the Dan Flynn place on Bullhead and the Ab Barbers bought the next place down the river. At that time, the children of the Bullhead neighborhood were attending school in a log cabin at the mouth of New Creek, a short distance from the Ab Barber home. Mrs. Tane Matthews was the first teacher.

The Ab Barbers bought the Joe Burris place when they moved to Bullhead, and the Burris family moved to a new location on New Creek. Mr. Burris had a good ranch there. Hood Barber remembers that he used to shear goats for Mr. Burris.

Some of the Barbers' neighbors were Simon and Bob Smith, Jess Roberts, Joe Burris, Grandma Hunter and the Haynes boys.

Rube and Ab Barber were freighters. They hauled merchandise from Uvalde to Rocksprings and Barksdale and Vance.

Rube Barber had ten children, including five boys: Hood, Penn, Anson, Boyd, and Reuben; and five girls: Eunice, Luella, Ethel, Elva, and Hermon.

Ab Barber had six children: May, Lillian, Kyle, Carroll, Corinne, and one little girl who died and was buried near the Barber home on Bullhead.

The John Davis family sold their ranch holdings in the Hackberry and Bullhead communities in 1900, and bought an 800-acre place near Leakey from Alex Auld.

About 1900, the Sparks family moved from Travis County to Edwards County and settled near Barksdale. Mrs. Sparks was a widow with two children when she moved to Edwards County. The children were Sam and Eula.

Soon afterward, she married a Mr. Starks and had six or seven children by that marriage. The Layne boys, Frank and Van, came into the country with the Sparks family. Frank

Lane married Minnie Pope, daughter of John Pope, and Van Lane married Edith Rhodes, a sister to Robert and Dan Rhodes. Sam Sparks married Zora Pope, another of John Pope's girls.

The Sparks and Lane families ranched on Spring Creek on the place now owned by Tom Beck.

In 1900, Dr. Cross moved into the Barksdale community with the idea of setting up a health resort. The headquarters for the enterprise was to be the John Coalson Hotel, which had just recently been built. The venture came to naught, and Dr. Cross soon moved out of the country. Dr. Cross had his home during his stay in Barksdale on the John L. Barnes lot fronting Main Street. The resort hotel continued to be used as a rooming house for many years.

The directory of county officials for Edwards County in 1900 included: S. A. Hough, county judge; M. C. Bozarth, sheriff and tax collector; W. A. Johnson, county and district clerk; A. Benton, treasurer; D. C. Broyles, county surveyor; T. F. Wilson, commissioner for precinct no. 2; J. R. Sweeten, justice of the peace, precinct no. 2; and D. W. Pope, constable, precinct no. 2.

In 1900, the Barksdale community was saddened by the death of Joe Beck, who died at his ranch home west of Barksdale. Mr. Beck left his widow and nine children to mourn his passing: Tom, Fred, Walter, Nita, Fitzhugh, Mammie, Lillie, Josie, and W. O. (Boss). The Beck family owned considerable property in Barksdale and several ranches in the vicinity.

The Nueces Canyon was plagued with heavy rains and high water in 1900. The Nueces Canyon watershed is said to have the heaviest downpours of rain and the most destructive floods of any area of comparable size and population in the world. Certain parts of the Edwards County region have been checked against the rainfall of other regions, and the above statement has been verified by the findings.

The Ed Hill family lived on Pulliam near the John Pope place when the big rise on the Nueces came in 1900. He had parts of two wagonloads of household goods washed away by the river. The Hill family then moved into the John Pope house with that family, where they stayed for several months.

The John Pope and the Ocie Pope families were living on the banks of Pulliam in 1900. The houses of the two families were only a short distance apart. A terrible rise that

year covered the flats around the Pope homes. Mrs. Ethel Pope says she experienced her second washout that year. She says they lost everything in the flood but one old dress. Her and Ocie's house was washed away. They took refuge in the John Pope house which was located on higher ground toward the mountains.

During the flood, John Pope was cut off by the river at a garden spot the family had on the spring branch. Ocie rode across the stream on his horse to the rescue of his father. John Pope rode back across the river and Ocie swam behind, holding to the horse's tail.

The Captain Wallace family sold out their store business in Vance in 1900, and moved to Barksdale. Lee Wallace entered into a partnership with John A. Barnes in the Barnes store at Barksdale. Captain Wallace retired from business, and went to live with his son, Jim, in one of Mr. Barnes' rent houses south of the school building.

The Ocie Popes built a new house in 1900, east of the John Pope place.

In 1900, Joe Wood owned a ranch on the Divide east of Rocksprings. Lum and Henry Wood sold out their property on Pulliam Creek, and moved to New Mexico.

John (Bunk) Wood remembers when the hurricane came that destroyed the city of Galveston. Its fury also caused high winds and devastating floods in the Canyon area. Tom Wood's family was making a trip to the Divide at the time the hurricane struck. The storm blew up while they were making a trip to visit the Joe Wood family. They were camped at Cubb's lake south of Rocksprings.

Zac Eppler says that when he was a very young man, he was on the Divide, hunting horses. The country was all open at that time, with scarcely any fences in the whole country. He rode his horse across some open country into a little draw, and saw a man in an open flat on a big slick rock making some queer motions and antics. Zac thought the fellow was crazy. It was Bart Colwell trying to learn some new dance steps. Zac says he finally ventured on down and saw it was Bart. Bart said he was just trying to master those new steps.

Jerry Burleson says the boys used to get together on Christmas night in Vance and shoot firecrackers and Roman candles. One night the boys were all gathered there and had a big fight with Roman candles. Sometime during the fight, the saddle blanket on Zac Eppler's horse caught fire. The

boys had a lot of fun at Zac's expense, because the horse did considerable bucking and pitching before the blanket was removed from his back.

In the spring of 1901, Jack Dean drove his father's wagon from Barksdale to Sweetwater, Texas, to help the Dean family get ready to move to Barksdale. The Deans packed and shipped the furniture, and Jack and his brother, Gus, drove the wagon back to Barksdale, taking some things to camp on the way. Mrs. Dean and the other children went by train via Fort Worth. After two days and nights on the train, they arrived in Uvalde. Mr. Dean was there to meet them, and they ate their supper at the Sansom Hotel near the depot, and stayed all night there.

The next day, they started by wagon and team to Barksdale. They drove the first day to the camp where the line building crew was. They ate their supper, fixed their beds, and went to sleep. Late that night, a terrible rainstorm came up. The family got under the wagon to get some protection from the heavy downpour. Of course, everything got wet, and the next day was spent in drying out the clothes and bedding. After getting those things dry, they started for Barksdale. Mr. Dean had found a place there for the family, but couldn't get possession for several days, as the people had not moved and there was no other suitable house in the town. So they camped in a little house on Main Street. After their first evening meal in the new location, Mrs. Dean made the beds and the family all went to sleep.

Some time after they had all lain down, and everything was quiet, Mrs. Dean heard a rattlesnake, and she recognized the sound because she had seen lots of rattlesnakes in Sweetwater.

She got up and looked and finally decided the snakes were under the floor. The next morning a man came with a gun and shot it, but the family hadn't gotten much sleep that night.

Jack and Gus came in a few days, and the family moved into their permanent quarters. Mr. Dean and Jack went back to work on the telephone lines. Mr. Dean had a crew of men working for some time, and soon the line was ready to be connected up in Barksdale. They had already installed telephones in the store at Montell, and one in the store at Laguna.

Mr. Dean rented a little store building on the west side of Main Street, and put the telephone office there. The Deans

also sold some merchandise in the building. There were two stores in Barksdale when the Deans moved there. One of them belonged to Dr. Ash, and was on the west side of Main Street. The other one belonged to Barnes and Wallace, and was located on the east side of Main Street.

Mrs. Dean and her oldest daughter, Elgia, ran the store, as Mr. Dean and the boys were away most of the time working on telephone lines.

After finishing the Uvalde-Barksdale line, Mr. Dean built a line to Vance, and also one to Rocksprings. There were no telephone lines in that part of the country before he built them. He also built lines from Barksdale to Leahey and from Uvalde to Brackettville and Del Rio. The office in Uvalde was in Mel and Charles Wood's barber shop until the exchange was built there.

Mr. Dean soon enlarged his merchandising stock, by putting up a new building and putting in a large supply of dry goods and groceries. He hired Joe Sweeten to run the store for him.

In 1901, the Dr. Ash store in Barksdale burned down. Soon after that, J. F. Rhodes and J. L. Barnes bought the location and put up a new building, which they stocked with a general line of merchandise.

In 1901, the J. C. Pope family moved from South Spring Creek to a place three miles north of Barksdale. Button Sanchez had lived at that place at one time, and had made some crude improvements. Soon after moving to the new location, Mr. Pope installed a water system by which he could draw water from a spring near the house. The system consisted of a wire stretched from a window of the house to the spring, and also included a rope and a pulley which ran along the wire to carry the water from the spring to the house. Years later, the water was piped from that spring down to the Ocie Pope place, which was more than a mile south of the spring.

On July 1, 1901, Tom Casey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Casey, was married to Miss Lizzie Harrington, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Harrington.

In 1901, Will Whittley had the honor of ginning the first bale of cotton in his neighborhood. The bale weighed 663 lbs. and sold for \$83.12.

W. B. Hutcherson, a farmer in the Camp Wood Creek neighborhood, was very successful in raising sweet potatoes and other vegetables. His ranch included some fields on the

bank of the stream that ran by his house, and Mr. Hutcherson had installed a gravity-flow irrigation system by means of which he watered the small patches, and he was able to make a good crop even when the weather was too dry for dry farming. In addition to the sweet potatoes and other crops he sold in the neighboring towns, he cut and hauled cedar posts to Uvalde, a distance of some fifty miles. On one of these trips to Uvalde, he dropped in at the local news office to chat with Mr. Hornby, and to report the crop conditions in his area. In the course of the conversation, he told Mr. Hornby about an experiment he had been running on his farm, with his hens, of which he had quite a few. He stated that every day he gave each hen a teaspoonful of whiskey, which, he went on to say, not only gave the eggs a good flavor, but also furnished him with eggnog for Christmas every year.

Dr. Moseley, a physician of Barksdale, had some reputation as a surgeon, for in 1901 he moved his practice to Rocksprings, after purchasing new equipment and supplies at Uvalde.

The Katy Flyer was a hack service between Uvalde and Rocksprings, operated in 1901 in connection with the mail contract. The service was begun on July 1, 1901, and included delivery of the mail along the route. The hacks made connection with the Rocksprings mail at Barksdale, and had, for another end of the line, the post office at Vance. The line was owned and operated by Joe Burris, who guaranteed to give good service by using the best teams and equipment, and hiring only the best drivers. The hack schedule called for leaving Uvalde at 6:00 A.M. The fare was \$3.00 to Barksdale, \$2.00 to Montell, and \$1.50 to Laguna.

On July 1, 1901, R. A. Winn sold his ranch holdings of some thirty sections near Carta Valley to Edwards Brothers, for a reported price of \$16,000.

After 1900, many ranch owners in the Canyon and Divide areas turned to goat raising as a part of their ranch enterprises. The rougher parts of the country were especially adapted to the habits of the Angora goat, and ranchmen were able to realize a considerable income from parts of their ranch that were too rugged for the running of cattle.

In the Montell area, the Baylor families, and the E. L. Witt family, very early turned to the raising of fine Angora goats. These men spent large sums to secure the best breeding stock from the United States and from foreign countries.

The Landrums of Laguna were also pioneers in the registered goat business, and their bucks commanded the highest prices from the other breeders all over the ranching country.

W. B. Kirchner, the Frank Weavers, and the Collins family of the Barksdale area, became interested in improving their flocks. John Chapman of Cedar Creek began the improvement of his herd by purchasing foundation stock from the George Baylor flock. W. B. Kirchner bought from C. P. Bailey a purebred Angora buck that had recently been shipped from Turkey. Bob Davis of the Frio Section was already building the foundation of his registered flock, that was to produce winners for the next half-century.

Members of the Yancey family lived on Liveoak on the West Prong of the Nueces, in 1901. J. W. Habermacher, editor of *The Barksdale News*, married one of the Yancey girls. Lock Lacey, a son of J. D. Lacey of Barksdale, married another one of the girls and operated a grocery store near the printing shop of Mr. Habermacher.

In 1901, L. S. (Louis) Friday was foreman of the John W. James ranch near Crown Mountain. The J. W. J. ranch was stocked with sheep, goats, and cattle.

The J. D. Lacey family moved in 1901 from the Moles-Worth place on Lake Creek, to the Bottle ranch on the Divide between Rocksprings and Sonora.

The Bill Connell family moved from the Camp Wood Creek community in 1901 to the West Prong of the Nueces.

The Math Taylor family moved from their place near the Ben Casey ranch, to a place on Bullhead, later known as Boone Camp. Some of Mr. Taylor's neighbors there were: George Tucker at the Cards Springs ranch, Bill Felts on a place about a mile below Cards Springs, Grandma Hunter and the Haynes boys on the next place down the creek, Simon Smith at the main fork of Bullhead below the Hunter place, the Ab and Rube Barbers, the Crooms, and Joe Burris, at the mouth of New Creek. Mrs. Wofford lived on the next place below, the Simmons family at the mouth of Holmes Hollow, and the Bud Yost family three miles above Vance on the Bullhead road.

In 1901, Ote Coalson moved from his place near Half Moon on Cedar Creek to a place on the Divide south of Rocksprings. Mr. Coalson bought the ranch from Tom Sattathite, who traded it to Mr. Coalson for 713 head of goats. Mr. Sattathite moved his family then to New Mexico. John-

ny Sattathite, in the meantime, had married Laura Reagan. Mr. Coalson, after trading the 713 goats for the ranch, had 700 goats and eighty head of cattle left.

Stella Ponton taught in the Hackberry community in 1901.

W. D. (Bill) Reagan, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Reagan, was married to Elizabeth Kite, at the home of the bride's parents on Pulliam in 1901. The wedding was celebrated with a big supper. Mrs. John Sweeten (Lady Alexander) prepared the food for the supper. The wedding ceremony was performed by Bro. Lowe, a Baptist preacher. The young couple moved to Dry Creek after the wedding to make their home with the groom's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Payne.

The Dismuke family moved to Edwards County in 1902 and bought a ranch near Rocksprings which is now known as the Bacon ranch.

In 1902, J. A. Dean continued the work of putting up telephone lines in the Barksdale area. He built branch lines to many of the ranches over the country. Mr. Dean was a good merchant and treated his customers well. He did a good business in his store. One time it rained so hard the freight wagons couldn't get through from Uvalde for a good many days; everything was freighted from Uvalde by wagon and team — sometimes six or eight horses and a trailer wagon. When the first freight wagon came through the mud into Barksdale, everyone in town was out of flour, and Mr. Dean didn't have enough to go around, so he told the people to go home and bring empty flour sacks; then he divided the flour so that everyone could have a few pounds.

Mr. Dean had an extension from the telephone office in the store to his residence so they could answer calls at night. After a short time, the store business grew so fast, and Mr. Dean had to be away from home so much, that he decided to take a partner into the store. He sold a part interest in the business to a Mr. Dannelly, and the business was known from then on as Dean and Dannelly.

This arrangement made it possible for Mr. Dean to continue to build his telephone lines. He put in a metallic circuit between Uvalde and Barksdale, as he had so many ranch telephones that it was hard to get a business call through to Uvalde. The switchboard was then in the Dean house across the street from the store.

On December 9, 1902, Mrs. Fannie C. Fisher was ap-

pointed postmistress for Barksdale. The office was moved to the Fisher residence in the old Fleischer house.

Rocksprings got its first ice plant in 1902. J. D. Eaton had recently purchased the waterworks, and built an ice plant in connection with the water system. The water system consisted of three small wells, and a number of small wooden tanks. Windmills were used over the wells when there was a wind, and at other times, the water was pumped out by steam engines, the cedar wood to fire the boilers being hauled from the Laughlin ranch.

Frank Sweeton was married to Nona Benskin on May 27, 1902, at the Benskin ranch home. There were 100 guests at the wedding, which was complete with a big supper.

In 1902, the Cunningham family lived on Camp Wood Creek. Two of the boys killed themselves at the same place on the farm, and within a few months of each other.

In 1902, the Tom Young family lived on Pulliam near the Sam Raney place. Gertrude Young worked for Mrs. Raney, helping her with household chores. She worked for the Raney family about two years; so it was no surprise to Mr. and Mrs. Raney when Robert announced to them that he and Gertrude were engaged to be married. The wedding took place in the Raney home and a host of friends from all over the Canyon gathered to see the ceremony, and to enjoy the hospitality of the Raney family. Bro. Dan Matthews read the marriage vows to the young couple, and, after the ceremony, the guests danced to the music of Jim Green and Ocie Pope.

After the wedding, the two young people made their home on the Raney ranch, where Robert was employed by his father.

A. W. Ackerly owned an irrigated farm on Camp Wood Creek in 1902, where he raised vegetables and sweet potatoes. In November, 1902, he was gathering his potato crop, and had Terry Hill helping him. Mr. Ackerly had recently bought a horse from Mr. Simmons on Bullhead, and the horse was rather wild and skittish. Terry and Mr. Ackerly had loaded the wagon with potatoes and were ready to drive the team to the ranch house, when the horses became frightened and got out of control. They pulled the wagon over an irrigation ditch and threw Mr. Ackerly out. He landed on his head, breaking his neck. Terry ran and got help, and they moved him to the house, where he died a short while later.

The Alfred Nelson family moved back from Arizona in

1902. Mr. Nelson bought the Ackerly property in Barksdale, which consisted of a residence and a blacksmith shop.

In 1902, the officers elected for Edwards County were: S. A. Hough, county judge; W. A. Johnson, county clerk; M. C. Bozarth, county sheriff; J. W. Cowan, county treasurer; Ab Benton, county assessor; J. L. Hunter, county surveyor; J. L. Adams, animal and hide inspector; W. K. Whittley, constable precinct no. 2; A. P. Allison, commissioner precinct no. 2; Frank Lane, county attorney.

Some of the members of the Church of Christ in Barksdale were privileged to hear Early Arceneaux, in July, 1902. Bro. Arceneaux was known as the boy preacher, and became nationally famous as a powerful evangelist.

A. W. Stevens of Barksdale assisted Bro. Gaddy in a revival at Leahey in 1902.

The Ellis family operated a meat market in Rocksprings in 1902, in a building opposite the Charles Schreiner Company store.

Lyter Hearn operated the Rackett store in Rocksprings in 1902.

Dr. Prothro had dental offices in the courthouse in the same year.

Rev. Hornberg and evangelist Elie, of Waco, Texas, came to Rocksprings in 1902, at the invitation of the local Baptist pastor, Rev. D. W. Matthews, and held a protracted meeting there.

J. B. Dodd and Son operated an express and passenger service between Rocksprings and Kerrville in 1902.

J. D. Pepper of the Divide offered his twenty-three-section ranch for sale together with 600 head of cattle and some fine Angora billies in 1902.

The following is an editorial by T. S. Pickens in the Rocksprings *Rustler*, November 2, 1902.

The hack line from here to Ingram, Texas, is proving to be a difficult problem. Since the rain a week ago, we have had no mails from that line on time, and several days mails were missed entirely. Two passengers were coming up Wednesday and had to have someone to go to meet them. We do not know who is to blame most with the failure to give satisfactory service, but the trouble seems to be that the line is being run on too cheap a plan. In our opinion, any man who would attempt to run the line on the present route and schedule for less than \$4000 per year is acting unwisely — especially since feed is so expensive. This kind of work is of

the most trying type on a team, and it is folly to try to work teams on such a line without good feed and plenty of it. The operator should first have good horses — horses that would cost him from thirty to forty dollars each — and then feed them well and keep them strong. It takes money to do this. We can't blame the man who is running the line for eighteen hundred dollars for trying to run it cheap enough to save a little something, but he should know that he cannot run the line on a cheap scale and make a success of it. Such mail and traveling facilities are a "Jonah" to any town and we sincerely hope that some change may soon take place to effect such improvements, that would-be visitors may not dread to make a trip to our town as they would a visit to Klondyke by way of Chillicate Pass. The line has honestly become a hiss and byword of passersby. We believe that the line could be successfully run from Junction here in one day and make the time of arrival one or two hours later if necessary and give much better service as this would be a distance of only fifty-five miles against seventy-three to Ingram and we believe on a better road.

Commissioners elected for Edwards County in 1902 were J. H. Dobbins, precinct no. 1; A. P. Allison, precinct no. 2; A. M. Gilmer, precinct no. 3; C. L. Crenshaw, precinct no. 4.

Justices of the peace were: W. T. Ford, precinct no. 1; J. B. Rutledge, precinct no. 2; W. P. Rose, precinct no. 3; W. J. Sansom, precinct no. 5.

The number of votes polled in the 1902 general election was 576, which were distributed as follows: Rocksprings, 157; Barksdale, 132; Vance, 42; Hackberry, 48; Huffman, 34; Leakey, 25; Kickapoo, 24; Carter Valley, 6; Paint, 16; Hagerman, 29; Exile, 14; Harris, 22.

In 1902, shipments of mohair were beginning to come in regularly to Uvalde and Kerrville from the ranchmen of Edwards County. Boston was the principal market for the commodity, and buyers would come from this eastern city to bid on the accumulations of mohair in the warehouses of L. Schwartz, F. A. Piper, and Charles Schreiner Company. The Edwards County ranchmen would bring their mohair clips in twice each year, as it was the practice to shear the goats every six months.

In February 13, 1902, Edwards County entered into an agreement to sell its school land in Hockley County. They decided to sell to De Witt and Flato at \$1.00 per acre, and the transaction was completed on June 1, 1903.

Pecans have always been a source of income to the people in the Nueces Canyon. The lowlands and the banks of the streams are lined with native pecan trees, which normally bear a bumper crop every three years, and sometimes a light crop in other years. The Nueces River got its name because of the fact that so many pecan trees grow along its banks. Nueces means nut or pecan.

The first order of the Eastern Star was organized in Edwards County on June 19, 1900. Bro. H. Remschel, and Sisters Vann and Hamilton of Kerrville Chapter No. 24, came to Rocksprings and organized the local chapter of Rocksprings No. 51, O.E.S. This chapter worked under a dispensation from June until October, 1900, when it was granted a charter from the Grand Chapter of Texas, signed by Mrs. Amelia Garrison, Worthy Grand Matron, and Mr. Winifred Hoskins, Worthy Grand Patron. Rocksprings Chapter No. 50 had as its first Worthy Matron, Miss Edna Warren, and as the first Worthy Patron, Mr. J. L. Nix; the first secretary was Mrs. Violet Barnes. There remains at this date only one living charter member, Mrs. Violet Barnes, affiliated now as a past Matron of Del Rio Chapter No. 204.

Many Grand Matrons and other Grand Officers have visited the local chapter. It has also received Grand appointments through the years. Miss Sallie Draper (Mrs. A. P. Allison) was appointed a special deputy in 1909, and in 1911 the appointment of Grand Representative of Wisconsin to Texas was bestowed upon her. In 1920, the Worthy Grand Matron appointed Mrs. Ruth Franks, Past Matron, as a member of the Transportation and Mileage Committee of Grand Chapter. Mrs. Hallie Peters, Past Matron, received an appointment in 1931 as Deputy Grand Matron of District 5, section 4. During her year as deputy, Rocksprings Chapter No. 41 held a school of instruction for this section. The Worthy Grand Matron of 1944-45, recognized Rocksprings Chapter by naming Mrs. Gladys Tobin, Past Matron, as Deputy Grand Matron, District 4, section 4.

The regular meetings of this chapter are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8 P.M. in the Masonic Hall.

The membership at this date, May, 1945 was seventy-seven, which includes several non-resident members.

In January, 1902, Dr. Eads came to Edwards County from McLennan County. Dr. Eads came to the Nueces Canyon for his health and was accompanied here by Amos Helm,

a young man from Waco, Texas. The two men made the trip in a wagon carrying a tent and camping equipment, and when they reached Barksdale, they made their first camp under the hill below town.

Soon after Dr. Eads arrived in Barksdale, he began to look around for a location for his family. Mrs. Joe Beck had recently built some rent houses on Lover's Lane, and Dr. Eads rented one of them until such time as he could put up a residence of his own.

A few months later, Dr. Eads' father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Eads, Dr. Allen, Mr. J. J. Eads' father, and the Howerton family, followed Dr. Eads to the Canyon. They all came by wagon from Waco, except Mrs. Eads, who came by train. Eugene Howerton had married a daughter of J. J. Eads on October 19, 1902, and this couple was in the party that made the trip from Waco. Mrs. J. W. Eads was a daughter of the B. F. Helms of Waco, and the Helm family came later to the Canyon and bought the old Sam Grantland ranch southwest of Barksdale.

Some places in Edwards County are distinguished by names that have been given to them by the name of the first person who lived in the vicinity. One such place is the pecan bottom, and the big waterhole on the Nueces, four miles above Barksdale on the Vance road. A Mrs. Lee lived there at the turn of the century, and the places have since been known as Lee Bottom and Lee Waterhole.

There is Crow Mountain West of Vance, where the Crow family once lived; then there is Joy Bluff on Hackberry, named for Old Man Joy, who made the California gold rush and later camped under this bluff. Coats Mountain on Pulliam is so-called because the Indians killed a man named Coats near there in the early days. On the road above Coats Mountain, the road used to cross the river at Zumwalt Crossing, where the Zumwalt family lived. Ed Wall Hollow got its name from a man by the same name who homesteaded a place there. Jones Lane above Barksdale received its name from the Paul Jones family. Nix Field identifies a large hole of water adjoining a field once owned by John Nix. Payne Springs on the head of Cedar Creek got its name from the Barney Payne family that once ranched in that neighborhood. Crider Blue Hole on the east fork of Cedar Creek was named by J. W. Crider, when he lived on a little place nearby. Half Moon Prairie on Cedar Creek got its name from the shape of the valley. It is crescent-shaped, and lies snug-

gled between the bordering hills. Horse Hollow on the old Bud Field place on Pulliam was so-named because horse-thieves used to operate in that vicinity, and camped in a large cave near the mouth of the draw. Board House Hollow was named for a very early settler on Dry Creek, who lived in a house he had built from boards split out of native timber. Flynn Creek on Bullhead runs through the old Dan Flynn place. Card Springs ranch on Bullhead was once owned by Mr. Card. Ice-waterhole just below the Card Springs ranch is a pool of water that lies under the shadow of a tall bluff where the sun seldom shines. The water in this pond is always very cold and is usually frozen over in the wintertime. Holmes Hollow on Bullhead was once the ranch of Abe and Mitt Holmes, early Canyon people. Dutch Battleground was the scene of a bloody encounter during Civil War days. One might, almost indefinitely, name places of interest in the Canyon country, and identify them with the people, the place, or the time of their first importance.

In 1902, the Jeff Bates family lived on Pulliam, several miles above the mouth of Polecat Hollow. Mr. Bates ran sheep and cattle on his ranch, but was always having trouble with his neighbors. There were no fences in the country at that time and people's cattle ranged over a wide area.

Mr. Bates' ranchhouse was located at a spring, and his ranch was a choice location because of the spring and the low hills and good grass around it. Some of Mr. Bates' neighbors on the north would pen his cattle and leave them there until Mr. Bates came and got them. They would also do the same with his sheep. The trouble finally got so bad that Mr. Bates sold out his ranch interest there, and bought a little place near Barksdale, where his children would be near school.

Mr. Remley had a ranch near the Bates place. He died there, and Ote Coalson bought the ranch from the Remley family.

In 1902, the R. W. Craig family moved to Edwards County and settled near Barksdale. They bought the Button Sanchez ranch northwest of town on Pulliam Creek. There were many children in the R. W. Craig family: Walter, Quincy, Monroe, Carrie, Robert, and Joel.

In 1902, Dona Cromeans was married to Bud Reagan at the Cromeans ranch above Barksdale. The couple moved to Dry Creek to make their home with the groom's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Payne. Mr. Payne operated a

ranch and irrigated farm, and hired his two grandsons to help on the place.

Scuff Raney and his wife moved to Spring Creek in 1902, where he was employed to take care of his father's ranch properties. Scuff had stock of his own, which he ran on the Spring Creek ranch.

George Cromeans and Mr. Clubb received the contract to carry the mail from Uvalde to Rocksprings in 1902. Feed stations were placed along the route where fresh teams could be had when needed.

Tobe O'Neal was one of Scuff Raney's neighbors on Spring Creek. In 1902, Ira Wheat bought a string of cattle in the Canyon and was taking them to Brady City to be shipped from there to Kansas. Sam Raney also had a herd he wanted to move, so the two men threw their cattle into one herd and made the drive together. Tobe and Scuff went along to help with the drive. There were 2000 head of cattle in the bunch, and they were to be shipped to Cedar Valley, Kansas. When they reached the shipping point at Brady City, the men loaded the cattle, and Scuff went with his father and Mr. Wheat to Kansas on the train.

Charles Schreiner Company operated a store in Rocksprings in 1903.

Cattle prices were low in 1903. Cattle-buyers Bunton, Green, and Ridgeway bought three- and four-year-old steers at \$18.00 per head. From L. K. Hendersons, they bought 123 head; W. G. Whorton, ninety-one head; Mr. Stendebach, twenty-five head; Mr. Schultz, twenty-five head; V. A. Brown, fifty head; M. M. Parkerson, 400 head; M. M. Parkerson also sold to Sparks and Northington 300 cows at \$12.00 per head, delivered at Brady City.

Ed Jerzig, another buyer, bought territory cows at \$11.00 per head. He bought from J. J. Minter, fifty head; J. E. Thurman, 125 head; M. C. Bozarth, fifty head; John McKee, 125 head; Cecil Robinson, 120 head; S. H. Grantland, forty head.

Mrs. John Paul Jones was proprietor of the Ranchman's Hotel in 1903.

J. W. Hill, W. C. Linden, H. C. Fisher, Frank Lane, and Sam Hough were practicing law in Rocksprings in 1903.

Mr. Wills Molesworth lived on a ranch near Lake Creek in 1903.

J. Barnett operated a ranch on Hackberry in 1903.

A Sunday School was organized in Barksdale in 1903,

with L. F. Hamilton as superintendent, Mrs. Fannie Fisher as assistant superintendent, Miss Elgia Dean as secretary, and Miss Mamie Hill as organist.

Bro. Moses, Baptist minister, was preaching in the Canyon in 1903.

Miss Sarah Smith attended Summer Normal in Rock-springs, and took the examinations before the county board of examiners in August, 1903. She was awarded a certificate, and was elected to teach the Camp Wood Creek School that fall.

The Weltys moved from the Canyon after 1900.

In 1902, a baby was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bud Reagan of the Barksdale community. They named him John A., for his paternal grandfather. Dr. Eads was called in on the case, and this baby was the first one to be delivered by Dr. Eads after he came to Barksdale to practice. At the time of Dr. Eads' death in 1936, he had officiated at the birth of over 3700 babies.

In 1903, the people of the Bullhead community built a schoolhouse on the Simon Smith Flat at the main fork of the river. Mr. J. M. Reddick taught two terms in that school. It was known as the Angora School.

The Dr. J. E. Rogers family moved to Barksdale in 1903, and occupied the house on Lover's Lane, recently vacated by the J. W. Eads family. Dr. Eads had just finished a residence of his own across the draw from the Barnes and Wallace store. Dr. Rogers and Dr. Eads were brothers-in-law, having married two Helm sisters, Cora and Ivy.

The Barksdale News reported the death of Vance Walling in 1903. The Walling family was one of the first families to come to Barksdale, settling on Cedar Creek in 1881. While living in Barksdale, the Walling family operated a rooming house on the site where Johnny Coalson later put up the two-story hotel building.

J. A. Dean completed his telephone line from Uvalde to Batesville in 1903.

Considerable cattle trading went on in the Barksdale area in the spring of that year. Sam Raney sold and delivered to W. P. McCollum of Valentine, Texas, 320 four-year-old steers. Mr. Raney did a lot of cattle buying over Edwards County, not only for himself, but also for the big cattlemen in the Uvalde and Batesville areas.

In 1903, W. B. Kirchner was an Angora breeder of considerable prominence. He extended his ranch holdings on

Spring Creek, and later became associated with the Weaver family in the breeding of fine registered Angora stock. In 1903, he made a trip to El Paso, and while there he reported that he had 100 purebred Angora nannies that he was going to register on his return home.

Mohair sold for 55 cents per pound in 1903, as was reported by L. S. Friday, foreman of the J.W.J. ranch, who sold that ranch's accumulation for that price in Uvalde.

In 1903, Barney Payne built a dwelling house on Water Street in Barksdale across the street from the Oatman house. He later sold this place to Jack Edwards, together with three or four acres of pecan land.

On October 9, 1903, the town of Rocksprings celebrated with a big barbecue and rodeo. A number of people from Barksdale attended the affair. Among those present from Barksdale were Rob and Jim Grantland, and their sister, Beulah, Fred Beck, and Charlie Moore.

In January, 1903, Haze Taylor of the Bullhead community was married to May Ward in the home of the bride's parents near Vance.

Among others, E. L. Witt was one of the first ranchmen in the Montell area to show an interest in improving the quality of his Angora goats. The Witt goats were prize-winners in both state and national stock shows. In October, 1903, two of the Witt boys, Lamar and Perry, took several head of registered bucks to the livestock show in Kansas City, Missouri, where they won a number of prizes.

The year 1903 was a good year for the pecan industry in the Canyon area. Z. H. Pannell of Vance attended the pecan sale in Uvalde in November of that year, and reported that 225,000 pounds were sold there at prices ranging from four to five cents per pound. Uvalde firms handling the sale were E. B. Zachry and Company, F. A. Piper Company, and L. Schwartz.

In 1903, the M. D. (Duke) Taylor family moved from Sweetwater to the Nueces Canyon. The J. A. Dean and the Taylor families had been neighbors in Sweetwater, Texas.

The Taylors were in the cattle raising business in Sweetwater, and they brought 200 head of cattle with them to Edwards County. Mr. Taylor's account of his trip from Sweetwater to Edwards County is an interesting story. He says that he had previously been over the route that he planned to follow in bringing his herd into the new country.

He left the main road at San Angelo and went west to Cristoval, Texas. He says that he found most of the people along the way friendly and accommodating. Later on, some of the ranchmen tried to keep him to the road with his stock. They tried to shove his herd back toward San Angelo. One day while he was cooking dinner, a hard-looking man rode up to his camp. The fellow told Mr. Taylor that he had better let his cattle graze, because that was the last grass they were going to get. "The next man you meet," he said, "is a hard hombre."

Mr. Taylor went through the fellow's place all right. He started his herd before sunup the next morning, and finally reached Schleicher County. He didn't stop the herd long in that area, because there wasn't any grass. At his next stop he camped at a place where there was a small trap. Two men were unloading cake there for a big lot of poor cattle.

Mr. Taylor made his next camp in the edge of Sonora, Texas. He went on from there and met Joe Connell with a herd of 2000 mutton goats. Mr. Connell told Duke that he made about twenty miles a day with the herd. He came next to the John Benskin place, where Mr. Benskin offered to buy his cattle. The cattle were in good shape and Mr. Taylor didn't care to sell them. His next stop was the John Hicks place on Hackberry. Mr. Taylor's horses had thrown their shoes and had become tender-footed. He was looking around for some old shoes, and finally found two, for which he paid a dime. Andy Welch then located six pairs for him, for which he made no charge.

Andy said that his brother-in-law had a vacant house where Duke could stay until he found a permanent location. In the meantime, Mr. Taylor bought a half-section of land where he left his cattle until February. While there he bought 100 goats from Andy.

In February, 1903, Mr. Taylor moved his cattle and goats down the river to a place near Vance that he had bought from Ward Watkins.

Mr. Taylor says that Vance was just a village when he arrived there. Vol Ross had a store, and Jim Gray and Hal Pannell operated a partnership business there. Henry Wells had a blacksmith shop near his home. Duke says Mr. Wells did lots of free work, and was always lending his tools to anybody who needed them.

The family of Walker Dismukes moved to Edwards County about 1903. Mr. Dismukes had moved to Rocksprings

some months before, and had helped Charley Shurley and Henry Dismukes drive 800 head of cattle to Edwards County in 1900. Mr. Dismukes was asked by J. S. Gethring, manager of Charles Schreiner Company, to help invoice the store in 1902, and he remained with the company over three years. He was holding that position when he married Miss Hannah Green and brought her to Rocksprings in September, 1903. Miss Hannah says she will never forget the trip from Gonzales to Rocksprings, when they crossed the Guadalupe twenty-three times, a two-day trip. They spent one night at the boneyard, a watering hole for stock which was so named because of the many animal bones in the area.

The Sam Grantland family sold their Divide ranch in 1903 and moved to Barksdale where Mr. Grantland built a home on Main Street, north of the Ackerly rooming house.

The George Wall family moved from the Dry Frio in 1903 to Edwards County, and settled on the Collins ranch on Cedar Creek. They stayed there a few months, and moved to the old Wilhoit place southwest of Barksdale. There were several children in the Wall family, among them Frank, Pearl, Bessie, Vida May, Della, Bill, and Pete. Most of the children attended school in Barksdale.

In 1903, John A. Barnes died, and the Barnes and Wallace partnership in Barksdale was dissolved. Mr. Wallace continued to operate the business as its sole owner.

The C. S. Greer family moved to Edwards County in 1903 from Spur, Texas, and settled in Barksdale. Mr. Greer bought the Dr. Ash residence, and put up a building on Main Street south of the Dean Telephone Company building where he operated a drugstore. The children in the Greer family were Ed, Minnie, May, Jack, Cornelia, Zora, Ewell, and Curtis. Most of the children attended the Barksdale School. Mr. Greer was a schoolteacher himself, and had taught several terms before moving to Barksdale. The family had previously lived at Spur, Texas, in the Panhandle, where Mr. Greer was engaged in ranching, schoolteaching, and giving music instructions during the summer months.

The Greer family occupied the Ash house for a few months, and then moved into a house that Mr. Greer had built for his family in the southwest part of town.

Mr. C. S. Greer taught the 1904 and 1905 terms of school in Barksdale. Terry Hill says that Mr. Greer was a good teacher, that he kept order and could teach the children mathematics.

Lum Thompson says that while he was courting Izora, he would get together a gang of young folks on the Bull-head side, and they would all go over to the Frio on horse-back to dances there. On one occasion, six of them had come over for a dance. A bunch of stray horses had come in on the Frio some time before, and nobody knew who they belonged to. Each of the six people in the party caught a horse, and rode him to the dance. One of the boys had a grey horse that belonged to Mr. Clark on Dry Frio, and he ended up in court, but was turned loose.

Lum remembers a dance he came to at Barksdale. Mrs. Ocie Pope was there with Burney. Lum says Burney was a fractious young one. During the dance, Mrs. Pope told Burney she had to get a drink of water, and Burney began to squawl. Mary O'Bryant said, "Burney, shut up," and Burney sat there and hung his lip.

Lum recalls that Claud Williams was a good jigger. One night at a dance, the crowd matched Claud against another fellow who claimed to be a good jigger, and the people bet a lot of money on the match. The two danced until they danced out, and the judges called it a draw.

Mrs. Lum Thompson says that folks didn't have much money back in the early days, but she adds that they didn't need much. The girls in her family always had two dresses, one for school and one nice dress for special occasions. That was enough for a year. They went barefooted at home until they were grown. Calico was worn, except on Sundays. The Sunday dresses were made of satin. Material like satin was 15 cents per yard. Cotton cloth was 5 cents per yard. The folks went to town twice a year and bought supplies each time for six months. What few other items the family needed were bought at the local stores in Vance or Leakey. Coffee was 5 cents per pound, sugar 5 cents, flour \$4.50 for 200 lb. barrels. Meal was ground at the local mill.

Some of the O'Bryant neighbors were: John Cox, the Hightowers, Ab and Rube Barber, Charley Moore, Mann Cromeans, Walker Sharp, the Simmons family, and the Joe Burris family.

Figures for enrollments for Edwards County Schools for the school year 1903-1904 are complete and are as follows:

The scholastic population for Edwards County in 1903 was 771 students. The districts and students were: Leakey, 47; Barksdale, 159; Vance, 143; Llano, 26; Kickapoo, 27; Rocksprings, 288; Huffman, 47; Dry Frio, 34.

Trustees in the Leahey District were J. G. Hughes, S. T. Cooper, and R. P. Orrel. Teachers were M. T. Wiley, Mrs. Augusta Austin, and Miss Martha Johnson. Leahey had a five-months' term, beginning December 4th and ending April 11th.

Trustees of the Barksdale District were John Nelson, Ed Hill, and L. A. Field. The district had four schools as follows: C. S. Greer and Miss Agnes Pierce, teachers; Pulliam, T. S. Pickens, teacher; Cedar Creek, Miss Goldie Jones, teacher; Camp Wood, Miss Sarah Smith Hutcherson, teacher.

Vance District trustees were W. P. Rose, John Coalson, and B. F. O'Bryant. The district had five schools. They were: Vance, J. O. Banta, teacher; Hackberry, H. B. Faulk, teacher (Hackberry was instructed to hold school ten months or until funds were exhausted); Bullhead, Miss Mabel Chapman, teacher; Dry Creek, Miss Florence Sweeten Craig, term completed by Miss Goldie Jones; Cade, J. H. Moore, teacher.

The Llano District trustees were S. H. Guthrie, and W. J. Greer, and the teacher at the McKee school was Miss Willie Dobbin.

J. C. Chapman, J. C. Linn, and J. E. Thurman were trustees of the Kickapoo School District, which had two schools, Kickapoo and Thurman. The Kickapoo school had a two-and-one-half-months' term, with S. W. Draper as teacher, and the Thurman School, which had a ten months' term, was taught by Miss Ethel Draper.

The Rocksprings School District had four schools, with J. N. Lockley, M. C. Bozarth, and W. T. Ford as trustees. The Rocksprings School had an eight months' term, and its teachers were J. B. Bird, Mrs. Pearl L. Bird, Miss Sallie Draper, Miss Cora Curry, and Miss Minnie Clark. Miss Pearl started the term at the Adams School, and Miss Carrie Weaver finished it. S. W. Draper was teacher at the Simond School, and J. H. Moore taught the Latin-American school.

The trustees of the Huffman School were H. Ferguson, D. E. Shackelford, and A. M. Luckey. This district had two schools. H. W. Jones taught at the Huffman School and Miss Sallie Godbold taught at the Janes School.

Dry Frio had as trustees D. E. Naylor, Lum Cummins, and C. H. Lokit. The school's address was Exile, Texas. The teacher was Miss Lillie Anderson.

During the 1903 Barksdale term of school, Mr. Greer was trying to teach Terry Hill some arithmetic. Terry recalls that he wasn't much interested and didn't pay any atten-



Rev. D. S. Stovall, Dee Allen, and baptizing group, 1908



1. Mr. and Mrs. Haze Taylor and son, Crystal 2. Zenith Hancock and Robert Raney 3. George Raney 4. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Roberts 5. Rev. D. S. Stovall, Mr. and Mrs. Lon Luce, Luce girls (Jessie and Eloise), Luce boys and wives, Roy and Edith, Alonzo and Lena May, and Altah Luce Perkins. Little girls—Louise and Ruth Luce. Taken 1908, at marriage of Altah Luce and George Perkins 6. Arthur Ash and family 7. Barksdale bucket brigade. Cotton gin in background. Millie Wallace, Maud Hill, Elgia Dean, Minnie Greer, Lillie Beck. 1st row: Zora Greer, Lorena Nelson, May Greer, Lizzie Nelson 8. Sarah Smith 9. Brother Skaggs, Church of Christ minister 10. Barksdale Spring: Zora Pope, Dr. Dorn, Sarah Smith, Mabel Chapman, Lady Alexander, Mamie Hill, others unknown



1. Early Canyon group 2. Dee Stillwell and Dan Rhodes 3. Dick Perkins family: Mr. and Mrs. Perkins and children, Fannie, Alvin, Hallie and Oswald 4. Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Wallace, and daughter Mary Lee 5. Mr. and Mrs. Rufe Winn, Mrs. A. M. Gilmer, Mrs. Len Clark, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Sherrill, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lockley 6. Mr. and Mrs. Ned Bradford 7. Grandma Kite 8. Mr. and Mrs. Scuff Raney, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Raney 9. John Benskin family, and group



1. John Field 2. Brother Mayhew, Baptist minister 3. Ella Arnold 4. Top row: Leonard and Emma Lockley. Bottom row: Bessie Reinenmer and Dollie Scarborough 5. Picnic group: Mike Stieber, Mr. Moody, Joe Boswell, Lizzie Brown, Barney Weaver, Foster Owens, Florine Marshall, Bertha Eaton, Flossy Black, Claud Pepper, Brown Epperson, George Pepper, Thelma Nichols, Cebia Guthrie, Seth Young, Tom Crosby, Hayes Winn, John Eaton, Herman Fleischer, Allen Moody 6. Will Chant branding calf 7. Mr. Uzzell and Pierce 8. Hackberry group 9. Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Kirchner 10. Alf Nelson and Math Taylor families in pecan camp

tion to the explanations. Mr. Greer took Terry by the collar and shook him real hard. Terry says that he learned pretty fast after that.

Edwards County was divided into election precincts in 1903, by order of the Commissioners Court.

In November, 1903, Dewitt and Flato bought the Edwards County school land in Hockley County for \$17,712.

On January 6, 1904, T. B. Hutcherson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Smith, at the home of the bride's mother in Barksdale. Miss Smith had met Mr. Hutcherson at a dance about two years before, at the Tom Westerman place two miles north of Barksdale. Ed Brumfield played for the dance that night. It was a case of love at first sight for the two young people. Miss Smith had been attending summer Normal in Rocksprings, and had contracted to teach the Camp Wood Creek school. She was teaching in that school when she and Mr. Hutcherson decided to get married. Brother A. W. Stevens, the Baptist preacher in Barksdale, performed the ceremony. The newlywed couple went to Camp Wood Creek to make their home, and Mrs. Hutcherson finished teaching the term of school there.

The McLaughlin family lived as neighbors to the Hutchersons on Camp Wood Creek. One day, the McLaughlins were going to town in their buggy, and Frank, one of the boys, was standing behind the seat with one foot on the side of the hack. His foot slipped and caught in one of the rear wheels, and was so badly mangled that his leg had to be amputated. Mrs. Sarah Hutcherson says that the young man's leg was buried in the community cemetery. Roxie Woodward and an infant of the Woodward family had been buried in the graveyard some years before. The cemetery was located at the main fork of Camp Wood Creek, near the spot where the old Camp Wood schoolhouse stood.

In 1904, the two McFatter boys, Jeff and Barney, moved with their father to Edwards County, and settled on a ranch in the lower part of the county near Arnold Crossing. Mr. McFatter bought two ranches, the one near Arnold Crossing, from Sid Billings, and the other on the river above the Sid Billings place, from Witt and Sons. Neighbors of the McFatters were the W. D. Sutherlands, Travis Jones, the Jeffers', and Tom Sutherland; the Woods brothers, who married W. R. Webb's girls, the Luce family, and Dan Flynn on a ranch near Pikes Peak.

The McFatter boys attended school in Uvalde.

Jim Pope built a house in Barksdale in 1904, and moved his family there so his children could attend a good school. Mr. Pope had several children in his family, among them three stepsons and daughters, Jess Allison, Millard and Alta Thompson; and five children of his own, May, Buddy, Lewis, Ira (Tots), and Dulce (Elsie). Mrs. Fannie Fisher taught the Pope children that year. The Popes lived in Barksdale one year, and moved back to their ranch, selling the town property to Ed Warren.

Mr. Haven of Lake Creek entered the goat business on January 15, 1904, by buying 871 head of stock goats from Marion Sharp at \$2.00 per head.

Medical services were made available to the people in the Montell area in January, 1904, when Dr. P. F. Robertson of Rocksprings moved there. Dr. Robertson built a home near Montell, and employed J. E. Coleman, Jr., as a carpenter on the job.

One of the first cars to make its appearance in the Uvalde area was driven by Gus Rothfuss of Eagle Pass. Manager Williams of the Eagle Pass Telephone Company accompanied Mr. Rothfuss on the trip from Eagle Pass to San Antonio, a distance of 165 miles. The trip was made in eighteen hours and fifty minutes. Mr. Williams opened thirty-five gates on the trip.

W. A. Boales was a prominent Canyon bee man in 1904. His apiaries were located in the Camp Wood and Montell areas.

E. B. Zachry Company of Uvalde had the following prices posted at his store in 1904. 20 lbs. sugar—\$1.00; 22 lbs. prunes—\$1.00; 10 lbs. bacon—\$1.00; 25 lbs. beans—\$1.00; 200 lbs. salt—\$1.00; 8 lbs. coffee—\$1.00; best hay—40¢ per bale.

J. H. Gearhart was one of the first men to own a car in the Uvalde area. The car was an Oldsmobile 41½ horsepower, two-passenger, 25-miles-per-hour job.

E. B. Zachry company offered free rides in his car for each \$5.00 purchase from his store on Tuesday, February 23, 1904.

Witt and Sons of Montell sold some eighteen-inch mohair in 1904 at \$3.00 per pound.

Good registered Angora billy goats sold for as much as \$100 per head in 1904.

Enoch Asher, sixteen-year-old son of John Asher, of Bullhead, died on his way to a San Antonio hospital, where he

was being carried to have an acorn hull removed from his windpipe.

Zachry and Gehardt made a trip to the Canyon to see after their ranching interests there, and reported that they made the trip in their new Olds in one day, with some time to spare.

Virge Miller, Brackettville cattle buyer, bought one- and two-year-old cattle in 1904 for \$11.00 and \$13.00 per head.

W. J. Lockhart, in one of his numerous writings about Canyonland, has the following tribute to give to some of his Vance neighbors:

Rube and Ab Barber, high-toned gentlemen; Charley and Jim Daly their kindly rectitude and Charles' brilliant wit caused wholesome emulation. Evasive colorful Ben O'Bryant, a man of high courage; Industrious, thrifty Phil Waddell; progressive, energetic Doc Farris; Jess Roberts, careful, cautious; at one time he was worth fifty thousand dollars; he was one of the first to specialize in mutton goats; John Cox, careful, conservative, honest; Will McMains who lived up to his religion; Jim Gray, intelligent, alert; Dave Burleson, erstwhile Justice of the Peace, and Baptist deacon. He lived to ninety-four. Josh Burleson, the man with a laugh; Here was much homely philosophy; Alex Carter, the man who hamstrung a climbing sow, and expressed the belief that he could hamstring her owner, L. D. Perkins. Albert Perkins, Sr., who never failed a friend; Ward Watkins, the man who saw clearly; D. Graham, active in church work and a good citizen; John Perkins, Sr., clear-sighted, just. R. A. Stewart, founder of the east Fisher ranch; Gus Townsend, a public-spirited man; Carial Baxter, a fiddler, and an industrious citizen, good for his debts. Dan Ross, the kind-hearted; O. L. Lackey, church builder; Duke Taylor, range conservationist, and Angora breeder; B. E. Smith, good friend, fine shot, and experienced ranchman; Walter Lockhart, local peacemaker; Dick Perkins, ranch builder and local politician. He once lost his half of a watermelon; A. W. Routh, just, but a man of iron; he charged with Quantrell; The Perry boys won in baseball against all challengers till the boys moved away.

On July 4, 1904, the people of the Canyon were celebrating the event with a big barbecue and rodeo at the picnic grounds west of Barksdale. George Sutherland, in company with John D. Sutherland, and several other young men of their neighborhood, were on their way on horseback to the

celebration. The parents of the riders were following close behind in their hacks and buggies. While racing their horses, young George's horse swerved from the road, ran under an overhanging limb, and killed its rider, almost instantly. George was the fourteen-year-old son of Tom Sutherland of the Montell community.

On August 12 and 13, 1904, another big barbecue took place at Barksdale. The barbecue meals were served under the shade trees below town, and the races and other events took place at the Jim Rhodes place across the river.

On the second day of the celebration, several sweepstake races were run. In one 300-yard race, there were three entries; a bay mare, "Beauty," owned by Rufus Kirchner, came through first. A brown horse, "Charles Culberson," owned by W. B. Patterson, Rio Frio, placed second; a sorrel horse, owned by Roy Stoner, placed third.

One of the events of the day was a race between Zac Eppler of Vance, and Regan of Montell. Zac Eppler won first in this event.

In the next pony race, Will Crow's horse came through first and Hugh Cox's second.

Louie Cowan's horse won the third pony race and Archie Pope's horse ran second.

In the fourth pony race, B. Thurman's pony, "White Man," placed second, and Henry Swantner's "Corbett" first.

In the fifth pony race, Archie Pope's horse placed first, and John Field's horse second.

The sixth pony race saw Regan's horse place first, and Zumwalt's second.

Ote Coalson's bay mare won the seventh race, and Roy Stoner's sorrel horse came in second.

Buck Turk, the star performer in the roping and riding contests, was roping a cow. Turk got her down but didn't tie her. The cow got up with Turk on top of her. Turk rode her all over the field. He finally got her tied in twenty-two seconds, winning second money.

1904 was the year that the fascinator and other folderol headgear were popular and fashionable.

Zachry and Gehardt sold their livestock and leased their ranch in the Canyon in December, 1904, to T. J. Lewis.

One of the favorite sports and pastimes of the Canyonites in the early days was baseball. Each town and community had its own ball team.

Among the players on the Hackberry team were the Perry

boys, Ruby, Bunyon, Barney, Hilliard, and Rabie, the Routh boys, the Merritts, the Welchs, the Waddells, and the Pannells.

J. A. Dean made application to the Edwards County Commissioners Court in May, 1904, for a right of way for his telephone line from Barksdale to Vance.

Officers elected for Edwards County in 1904 were S. A. Hough, county judge; W. A. Johnson, clerk; A. Benton, treasurer; M. C. Bozarth, sheriff and tax collector; J. W. Cowan, tax assessor; J. L. Hunter, surveyor; Frank Lane, county attorney; J. D. Adams, animal and hide inspector; A. P. Allison, commissioner precinct No. 2; J. R. Sweeten, justice of the peace, precinct No. 2; J. D. Taylor, constable, precinct No. 2.

In 1904, the M. S. Lackey family moved to Edwards County and settled on the Divide near Rocksprings. The elder Lackey had attended Baylor University when the school was located at Independence, Texas. He moved from Independence to Montgomery County to do missionary work. Oscar Lackey, the eldest son, was raised in Burnet County. The Lackey family left Burnet in 1898 when Oscar was fourteen years old, and moved to Rockport, Texas. In 1900, they moved to McMullen County and their trading center there was San Diego, Texas. They stayed there about two years, before moving to Gonzales County. The family stayed there until 1904, when they moved to Edwards County.

M. S. Lackey was in the well-drilling business in Gonzales. He shipped his machinery to Kerrville, Texas, from which place he moved it across country to Rocksprings. He bought a steam-powered well-drill and drilled wells on the Devil's River, in Sutton County, and in and around the town of Rocksprings.

O. L. Lackey took up one section of school land seven miles west of Rocksprings; he could have taken up four sections, but figured the land would never be worth anything because it was so far from town. He hired a Mr. Maddox to fence this land. Maddox later moved to Carta Valley, where he took up four sections of land, and his daughter took up four sections of land. Mr. Oscar Lackey raised cattle and hogs on his ranch and did some farming.

The first man to be ordained as a minister in the Rocksprings Baptist Church was F. G. Moses, who was ordained May 29, 1904. He was called as pastor in November, 1904. The Rocksprings Baptist Church building was erected on

its present location in 1904. It consisted of one large room with the Sunday School rooms curtained off. It cost \$1164.50.

Lum Thompson and Izora O'Bryant were married in the home of the bride's parents on Bullhead in 1904. The whole community was there. Charley Felts went down to Barksdale in his buggy and got Uncle Bob Sweeten, the local justice of the peace. Uncle Bob read the marriage vows to the young couple, and that night they all had a big supper and dance at Charley Felt's place. This was the last wedding ceremony that Uncle Bob Sweeten ever performed.

In 1904, Scuff Raney bought the old J. N. Reagan place north of Barksdale from Frank Barksdale. In the deal, he sold forty-five head of cattle and two horses to Quincey Craig. Then he traded the cattle to Lee Wallace and Dave Sweeten at \$2.00 per head.

In 1904, the Rocksprings School expanded its facilities by the addition of 1.9 acres of land. On August 4, 1904, J. L. Gaines conveyed to the school one acre of land, and on August 15 of the same year, M. C. Bozarth conveyed to the school .9 of an acre.

For a number of years, members of the Rocksprings Baptist Church met in the schoolhouse and in the Methodist Church. The minutes of October 23, 1904 contained a resolution of thanks to the Methodist Church for the use of their house as a place of worship, and for their hearty co-operation in the cause of Christ. In this same conference, a committee was appointed to select and buy an organ and song books for the new church building. Two small houses owned by Dr. Frank Robertson were moved together and purchased by the church as a parsonage on July 3, 1909.

In 1905, Charles Smith joined his wife, Sarah, in Barksdale and put up a meat market near the Ramsey house on Main Street. He worked at other odd jobs to help support his family.

In 1905, the Lon Webb and Proc Webb families moved to Camp Wood Creek. W. R. Webb, father of Lon and Proc, sold his ranch Northwest of Barksdale and moved to Camp Wood Creek. John Nelson was living at that time on the righthand prong of Camp Wood Creek.

On January 13, 1905, Robert Kernodle, one-time Leakey merchant, was assaulted by a young man of the Leakey community, and died from the injuries he received when his skull was fractured by a club in the hands of his assailant. Mr. Kernodle had previously lived in Barksdale, and was

postmaster there in the '80's. He had also been associated with R. J. Nix in the grocery business.

On January 20, 1905, Gene Howerton, J. J. Eads and Dr. J. W. Eads bought a 490-acre tract of land from the Butler heirs for a consideration of \$1400. This land lay west of Barksdale between Barksdale and Pulliam Creek. The Gene Howerton family moved on the land, and built their home on the west end of the tract.

John L. Nix sold his Barksdale property to J. L. Jackson in January, 1907. The property consisted of a dwelling house, cotton gin, sawmill, gristmill, store building and water-works. Soon after the purchase of the property, Mr. Jackson replaced the small water storage tank with a much larger one. He also erected a large building on the point of the hill below the dwelling house, to be used as a dance hall. The building was constructed from lumber sawed at the local mill.

In 1905, the Fred Webb family lived on Camp Wood Creek, where Mr. Webb ranched and farmed, running some 200 goats on his property. Mr. Webb was a son-in-law of John Nelson, also of the Camp Wood Creek neighborhood.

In 1905, Barksdale had an establishment where coffins were offered for sale. The business was operated by a Mr. H. W. House, in a small building north of the old Ackerly rooming house.

In 1905, J. N. Reagan, recently of Barksdale community, put up a health resort at the mineral spring on his place on the Dry Frio. The name of the resort was Reagan Wells, and included a hotel and facilities for steam baths. The post office was Bowles, Texas.

On February 16, 1905, E. L. Witt and Sons of Montell, in order to improve the quality of their Angora goat flock, purchased a pureblood Angora buck from parties in Turkey. The goat was an exceptionally fine animal and cost the Witt family \$1600. The buck was reported to have sheared nineteen and one-half pounds annually. The Witts had purchased a fine billy from the Landrum family a few months before, paying \$1300 for the animal.

Barksdale was visited by a terrific windstorm in July, 1905. Much timber was blown down over the country, and J. W. Habermacher reported that his news office was blown from its foundation. L. S. Friday, on the J.W.J. Ranch, near Camp Wood, had a goat shed demolished in the storm,

and Robert McGowan suffered considerable loss at his place near Barksdale.

The Dean Telephone Company of Barksdale completed a line from Barksdale to Leakey on June 9, 1905. Telephone service was rapidly being made available to people all over the country. The Street Gilmer Telephone Company in Rocksprings had lines serving most of the ranch people on the Divide, and providing communication between Rocksprings and Kerrville.

J. L. Jackson staged a big barbecue at his place in Barksdale on July 27 and 28, 1905. Ball games between the Leakey, Rocksprings, Vance, and Barksdale teams were special features of the affair. Race horse owners from all over the county brought their favorite ponies to enter them in the matched races. Goat roping, bronc riding, and steer bulldogging were other features of the barbecue.

Barbecue meals were served each day under the hill below town near the Jackson home. A fine spring of water near the place furnished water for the occasion. A big dance was staged each night in the new hall Mr. Jackson had just recently completed. Music was furnished by local talent, O. C. Pope of Barksdale, and Hal Pannell of Vance, taking turns at the fiddling. Lum Thompson of Bullhead helped in calling the squares.

Dr. Moseley moved from Barksdale on July 8, 1905, to set up a practice in Leakey, Texas.

On July 31, 1905, a party of people was having a picnic at Arnold Crossing below Camp Wood. A number of young people were in swimming and in the group was the young stepson of Joe Griner. The boy ventured out into deep water and immediately got into difficulty, calling for someone to come to his rescue. He was a poor swimmer, and finding that the water was too deep for him to touch bottom, he became panicky, and drowned before other members of the party could come to his help. Efforts to revive him failed, and the party of picnickers, shocked and saddened by the tragedy, broke up and went home.

The following is an ad in regard to the J. N. Reagan health resort on Dry Frio. "If you are sick and want to get well, the quickest way is to go to the Reagan Health Resort on Dry Frio, 28 miles north of Uvalde. J. N. Reagan, Boales, Texas."

Prohibition has been a minor political issue in Edwards County since the county's establishment in 1883. In a local

option election held in 1888, Barksdale voted to go dry. In 1905, Uvalde County voted in a prohibition era.

In 1905, Grandpa Red built a house in Barksdale near the C. S. Greer residence. Mrs. Sallie Beck moved a house from her ranch west of town and put it up on the edge of the hill south of the Fisher house. Mrs. Beck first built this house on her ranch for a Mrs. Locklar, a sick woman with a large family, and later moved the building into Barksdale for the convenience of Mrs. Locklar and her family.

In 1905, Sam Sparks moved to a place on Pulliam across the river from the John Pope place. Sam Sparks married Zora Pope.

J. M. Reddick taught the Angora School on Bullhead during the 1905-06 school term. This schoolhouse was built for the children living near the head of Bullhead Creek.

Dan Flynn sold his ranch on Miller Creek in 1905, and moved to Uvalde.

The Lee Winans family lived on Spring Creek in 1905. Mr. Winans had married Emily Lacey, a daughter of Mrs. J. D. Lacey of Barksdale.

The D. W. George family moved to Edwards County in 1905, and bought a place on Camp Wood Creek from William Earsh. J. R. Sweeten, of Barksdale, fixed up the necessary papers for the transaction.

The Fred Beck family moved from their ranch west of Barksdale in 1905, and rented the Dave Smith house in Barksdale.

Mr. W. C. Clubb had the contract in 1905 to carry the U.S. Mail from Uvalde to Rocksprings. George Cromeans of Barksdale was one of his drivers on the route.

The young people of Barksdale enjoyed a Christmas party in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brown in 1905. The young people played games and enjoyed refreshments of cake and punch. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Casey, Miss Eula Roach, Kate Pegram, Loula Smith, Mabel McMains, Alta Thompson, Grace Dannelly, Lillie Smith, Nina and Nora Brown, Lou Casey, Messrs. Cale Brown, Vol Casey, Tom Barnes, Jim Grantland, Jess Allison, Arthur Roach, Ernest Sweeten and Robert Pegram.

Mrs. Gene Howerton recalls that, when she lived in Barksdale, Math Casey was courting Miss Carrie Nix. Mrs. Howerton and Miss Nix talked to each other over the telephone quite frequently. Math complained that every

time he called up to talk to Carrie, she and Mrs. Hower-ton were always on the line, and he had very few chances to do any talking himself.

The Whatley family moved to Barksdale in 1905 and bought a residence north of the C. S. Greer home. Mr. Whatley was accompanied to this country by his wife, Teresa Whatley, three children, Dick, Jim and Etta, and a sister, Miss Sallie Whatley. Mr. Whatley entered into a partnership with a Mr. Baldrige and a Mr. Allen, and put up a mercantile business on the west side of Main Street, north of the Greer Drugstore. Miss Sallie Whatley operated a restaurant and a millinery shop in a two-story building north of the partnership store. These men carried a complete line of merchandise in their store.

In 1905, B. A. (Brit) Stewart bought the old J. N. Reagan ranch north of Barksdale, and moved there.

In 1905, Early Arceneaux, the boy preacher, held an evangelistic revival in the Jackson dance hall. The local Church of Christ people of the Barksdale community were so revived by this meeting that they determined to build a meeting house of their own without delay.

Joe Burris operated a saloon in Rocksprings in 1905. It was called the Green Front Saloon and had been operated previously by a Mr. Munn. It was located near the spot where the G. M. Carson building was later put up.

Mr. Casey says that he served on the grand jury only once, but that he was called for service on the petit jury nearly every term of court. He further states that he was never on the witness stand in his life.

In 1906, Haze Taylor moved from the Ward place on the Vance road and homesteaded a place on New Creek, a tributary of Bullhead. Mr. Taylor built the house and the improvements on that ranch not many years after their marriage.

Mr. Taylor says that panther and other varmints were plentiful on New Creek when he first moved there. He recalls one time that a panther was killing his goats. Haze and his brother, John Taylor, were watching Cedar Springs on Camp Wood Creek for turkey. A big panther walked up, and John shot and killed him.

On another occasion, Haze and Henry Taylor were hunting on Barber Hollow. Henry's dogs struck a panther's trail, which they followed for two or three days. They finally treed the panther in a big piñon tree. Henry was afraid

to shoot the panther in the body for fear of wounding him, and then getting some of his dogs hurt. He shot at the cat's head and missed. The panther jumped out. Irving Taylor was holding the horses. The men and dogs gave chase and treed the panther again. Irving then shot him behind the shoulder, and killed him.

Cotton production in the Canyon tapered off after 1906. The Mexican boll weevil invaded the country, doing more and more damage to the cotton crop each year. Ed Greer says that while Lee Jackson operated the cotton gin in Barksdale, he worked for Mr. Jackson and made \$2.50 per day, and \$.25 per bale for cotton ginned after sundown. Ed says that he helped Mr. Jackson, too, in operating the sawmill.

Joe Sweeten recalls that while he lived in Barksdale he worked two years for John A. Barnes. After the Barnes-Wallace partnership was dissolved at the death of Mr. Barnes, Joe went to work for Mr. Wallace. Joe clerked one year for J. A. Dean before Mr. Dean sold out to Mr. Barnes.

The John Rosenow family came to Edwards County in 1905, and settled at Carta Valley where Mr. Rosenow went into the ranching business. Mr. Rosenow brought to this country with him 1000 sheep and 1100 goats. He bought four sections of land near Carta Valley. He kept adding to his land holdings, and eventually became one of the largest landholders in the Carta Valley area.

In 1906, the Craig Uzzell family moved to Edwards County from Bee County. T. W. Uzzell, father of Craig Uzzell, was one of the county's earliest settlers, having come to Edwards County in 1878. Mr. Uzzell sold his ranch on Miller Creek to Robert Custer, and moved back to Bee County in 1896.

The Craig Uzzells bought the old Johnny Coalson Hotel building from Jim Boales, and put up a livery stable across the street in connection with the hotel business. He bought the Lock Lacey store building and used it as a feed-house for his livery stable. The stables ran the full length of the north side of the lot which occupied a large part of that block of land. Some of the children in the Uzzell family were Craig, Pierce, Floyd, Dolly, Amelia, Clara, and Marvin. Dolly married Dee Allen, a local boy, and Amelia married Theo Fisher. Pierce married Lillian Barber, one of Ab Barber's girls.

In 1906, the W. E. McCarson family moved to Edwards

County, and settled in Barksdale. Their temporary residence was a rent house of Mrs. Beck's, north of the Dr. Ash house. The Robert Rhodes family occupied the Ash house, and were neighbors to the McCarsons. The McCarsons later moved to the Oatman house, located on Water Street near the Sam Field home.

When the McCarsons came to Barksdale, J. F. Rhodes and J. L. Barnes operated a mercantile business on the site of the old Dr. Ash store. Mr. Barnes sold his interest and moved to Del Rio, and some time later Mr. McCarson bought an interest in the business from Mr. Rhodes, and the store was known after that for a number of years as McCarson and Rhodes.

In 1906, Walter Beck lived on one of his mother's ranches on Spring Creek. Mrs. Beck also owned a ranch on Ed Wall Hollow on Cedar Creek, and Fred Beck ranched on that place for a while. Mrs. Beck later sold her Spring Creek ranch to Robert Raney of Pulliam. Walter then moved to another of Mrs. Beck's ranches on the head of Bullhead, but stayed there only a short time. Walter traded the place for a bunch of Spanish goats. Mrs. Beck owned the Pecan Springs ranch near Double Wells and she used to winter her stock on that ranch. Fred Beck married one of the Oatman girls, and moved from the Canyon to Bastrop County.

In 1906, the following people took office in Edwards County: S. A. Hough, county judge; Frank Lane, county attorney; W. A. Johnson, county clerk; M. C. Bozarth, sheriff and tax collector; A. A. Haynes, tax assessor; Ab Benton, county treasurer; J. T. Gray, county surveyor; J. A. Townsend, commissioner precinct No. 2; Jack Edwards, constable, precinct No. 2.

People of the Camp Wood Creek community petitioned the Edwards County Commissioners Court in 1906 for a road from Barksdale up Camp Wood Creek. The petition was granted and work was soon started on the road. The road left the Barksdale-Uvalde road at a point about three miles below Barksdale, and turned east to the Camp Wood Creek near the Will Threadgill ranch, then wound its way up the river to its source.

In 1906, the Warren Hatley family moved to Edwards County from Junction, Texas, and settled on Camp Wood Creek. They bought the Bishop place there. The father of the Hatley boys, Bud, Joe, and Warren, came with the War-

ren Hatley family. Bud and Joe came to the Canyon with Tom Reavis in 1885. Lon Webb, on the old Kochendoeffer place, was a neighbor to the Hatleys. Mr. Hatley later on bought this ranch from Mr. Webb. Mr. Kochendoeffer was a brother-in-law to Lon Webb.

In 1906, W. A. Varga built the first store in Carta Valley. It took three days in wagons to get supplies out of Del Rio, Texas. The only mail the people got was brought out by anyone who happened to be in town. Soon after the store was built, Mr. Varga established the first office, and the little settlement was named Carta Valley at that time. It was previously called Carter's Flat. S. H. Henderson was given the job as mail carrier.

In 1906, the Church of Christ congregation in Barksdale began the construction of a church building. Gene Howerton, R. W. Craig, C. H. Kirchner, and a Mr. Ware were employed to do the carpenter work to construct a frame building on a lot south of the school building which had been donated to the church by J. R. Sweeten.

After the construction of this building, Mr. Howerton helped in putting up a building in Barksdale for the Baptist people. This building was located on Church Street on a lot north of the schoolhouse.

There is no record of the organization dates of either of the three Barksdale churches. They were all active from the beginning of the settlement in the nearly '80's. None of the charter members are known, but there is a record of the families active in the three churches. The Cromeans, Casey, Jim Brown, Uzzell, and Nelson families were Methodists. The C. H. Kirchner, the Dr. Fisher, the Beck, the Craig, the Sweeten, the Winans, the Pope, the Eads and the Howerton families were active in the Church of Christ. The Allens, the Rhodes', the Bates', the Owens', the Baldwins, the McCarsons, the Dunns, the Akes, the Lewis and the Benskin families were Baptists.

Lum Thompson recalls a barbecue they had at Vance. Along with the other events, they had a baseball game or two. The Barksdale, Rocksprings, and Vance teams were all there. The Barksdale team wouldn't let Jim Gray play, and it peeved Jim because he was one of the best players in the Canyon. So he placed his money on the Rocksprings team. He won thirty or forty dollars, and after the game he gave it to Mrs. Gray and said, "Now there is you some money."

At this barbecue they had a race in which a horse ran against a mare. Lee Wallace was riding the mare and knew she would win the race, so he held her back. The rider on the horse knew what Lee was doing so he held his horse back until Lee turned the mare loose, then he let his horse go. The horse beat the mare about two feet. Lee tried to get people to side with him that the mare had won. He asked Uncle Dab Boales if it was a fair race. Uncle Dab said, "Lee, a horse race is a horse race and a beat is a beat; and you got beat."

While living on the Frio, this experience happened to Lum Thompson. He lived with his daddy on Kent Creek. Bob Davis was living at the Prade ranch and he and Lum were good buddies. Some fellow in the country had a horse he wanted broken, so he came down to the Thompson place and talked to Lum about breaking the horse. The man offered him a certain price to break the animal, and said Lum could use the horse for a year if he wanted to. The horse had two fresh brands on him, one on the shoulder, one on the hip. Lum wasn't at home when the man arrived with the horse, but came in about dinnertime. The men got to talking about the horse and the brands. The stranger said that he needed two young men to help him move his stock out west. He had some horses and cows. The man said he had bought the horse in question, and had branded him. He said he had sold him to his brother after a day or two, and that his brother had branded him, too. So Lum took the horse and agreed to break him for the fellow. The stranger left that evening. Lum rode the horse about two months, and was making a good saddle pony out of him. Bozarth was sheriff of Edwards County at the time, and one day he rode up. Lum invited him to get down and have breakfast. Bozarth turned his horse loose, and asked Lum if he had a strange horse. Lum told him yes, and said he would go bring him up. Lum brought the horse in, and then the sheriff told Lum that the horse had been stolen from a man in Carta Valley.

Bozarth left and later arrested the man who had taken the horse. When court set, the bailiff came and summoned Lum as a witness. The man was tried and sent to the penitentiary for two years, where he died. He tried to prove in court that he had bought the horse from a Mexican.

As Lum was coming across-country from Rocksprings after this court case, he thought he would cut across the

divide to Holmes Hollow. It got dark before he reached Holmes Hollow. Lum was riding a good pony, but as he was riding down the canyon the horse stopped and Lum couldn't make him go on. Lum got down to see what was wrong, and found that he had ridden up to a steep bluff about seventy-five or 100 feet high. Lum says that was a narrow escape for him. He led his horse around the bluff back down the draw and continued his journey on home.

. Mr. and Mrs. Bud Reagan and son, John A., and baby daughter, Ada Belle, moved from Reagan Wells to Barksdale. Mr. Reagan went to work running a freight wagon between Uvalde and Barksdale hauling freight for McCarrison and Rhodes, and for L. V. Wallace. He also hauled freight to Rocksprings to the Carson's store. The Bud Reagans lived with Tom Cromeans on Dry Creek.

The Barksdale News was sold by T. Lee Moore on February 8, 1907, to Walter L. Barr of Rocksprings. Mr. Barr planned to start a new paper to be called the *Edwards County Standard*. J. W. Habermacher, former owner of *The Barksdale News*, was to be associate editor of the Rocksprings paper.

In 1907, the J. A. Dean family moved to Uvalde, where Mr. Dean planned to extend his telephone business by organizing a stock company and by extending his lines to San Antonio. Mr. Dean also bought a feed store in Uvalde which he planned to operate with the help of his son Jack.

In March, 1907, J. A. Hope and wife of Montell were killed in North Uvalde, when a passing train struck their wagon at the Nueces grade crossing in Sansom. The vehicle was completely demolished and was dragged by the train a considerable distance up the tracks.

On February 22, 1908, J. A. Dean completed the incorporation of his stock company known as the Del Rio, Uvalde, and San Antonio Telephone Company. Among the stockholders and incorporators were J. A. Dean, J. P. Jones, and L. A. Field, and other parties in the Canyon area.

Ed Adams says that he worked for Frank Sweeten at \$18.00 per month, in 1907, helping him to shear and kid goats. He saved one month's wages while working for Mr. Sweeten, and went into the goat business by buying six slick-bellied nannies, from which he raised nine kids. He says he stayed in the goat business from that time until he sold out in 1940.

While working for Mr. Sweeten, Ed and his boss one

day decided to shear their heads. Mrs. Sweeten turned the machine while the two men sheared each other's heads. That night one of the worst blizzards in years came up, and the men had to put pillowcases over their heads to keep from freezing. Ed says that was the last time he ever sheared his head. During that same cold spell, Uncle Bob Sweeten had a bunch of nannies that Ed and Frank had just sheared. There were 200 head, in all, and had cost Mr. Sweeten \$3.00 per head. He lost about half of them due to the cold.

After leaving Mr. Sweeten, Ed worked next for Ab Benton, where he received \$1.00 per day, and also got pasturage for his goats at 2¢ per head. He next worked for Jerry Ellis in the latter's meat market in Rocksprings, drawing \$18.00 per month and board. He helped to butcher the cattle for Mr. Ellis, and also drove a horse cart in which he delivered meat to the people in the town. He had to get up at 4 o'clock every morning, feed and hitch up the horse to the cart, while Mr. Ellis drank his morning cup of coffee. One morning, Ed failed to wake up at the usual time, but came out of bed in a hurry when Mr. Ellis came into his room and called him. Mr. Ellis told him that he ought to be shot, and says he believed every word that he said. Ed's daddy wanted him to quit, but Ed continued to work a while longer until finally one day the old horse ran away and tore up the cart. Then he had to quit. He then went to work for Henry Bunton and stayed in a room on the second floor of the building where the market was located. The old Green Front Saloon was next door, and Ed says that he could hear men every night in the adjoining room drinking whiskey and playing poker.

Ed worked next for Buck Ragenall, and later on for Norman Lockley, with whom he stayed for about two years. After leaving Mr. Lockley, Ed went to work breaking horses at \$1.00 per year of the horse's age. After breaking horses a few months, he worked for Frank Dismukes in a feed store, and it was during that period that Grover Adams was killed by his freight team at Boggy Crossing. After Grover's death, Ed took his wagons and teams and freighted several years for the Rocksprings merchants. He traveled with Bud Anderson most of the time, and Ed says that Bud was a fine partner to travel with. They hauled wool and mohair to Sonora, Kerrville, and Uvalde, and brought back merchandise for the Rocksprings merchants. One time Bud and Ed were coming from Uvalde and Ed had on 8000 lbs. of

sugar and a piano. Another time, he was loaded with flour for G. M. Carson and Sons. On that trip, he was traveling with Bud Reagan and Frank Felts. It rained a great deal and when the wagons reached Maverick Creek above Montell, Ed drove his teams into the stream and bogged down almost to the bed of the wagon. He had the road blocked so that no other wagons could pass, so they took six horses from Frank Felt's wagons and still couldn't move the wagon. The men all got together then and carried the flour sacks one at a time to the top of the next hill, after which they were able to get the wagon out of the bog hole. On these trips the men would eat light bread, bacon, sardines, and Van Camp's pork and beans. These were the only canned goods they were familiar with in those days.

After Ed quit freighting, he operated a hay-bailing outfit for awhile, then settled down in earnest to the business of ranching. The old Shanklin ranch was the first place he leased, and he worked there with his brother-in-law, Tom Crosby, buying 800 head of goats from Claud Pepper. The goats began to die that spring from sacahuiste poison, and they lost about 300 head. Ed next leased a place from Fayette Taylor on the head of Cedar Creek, borrowing the money from Schreiner Company to finance the deal. After staying on Cedar Creek one year, Ed moved back to Rocksprings and went to work for F. A. Moody, where he also pastured his goats. He used to entertain Mr. Moody's city guests there by riding wild horses, something few of them had ever seen done before.

Ed moved next to the Gardner Franks place where Mr. Franks was running about 800 head of goats at that time. Ed's job was to keep the herders supplied with groceries, and to keep the four or five herds straight. This was done by painting the goats' horns, one color for one flock, another color for another flock.

They had many unusual experiences on that ranch. One time, a young Mexican couple moved there, and the wife was expecting a baby. Ed said they had to act as midwives when the time came, because it was a long way to a doctor.

One time, Mr. Franks brought out a Mexican handy man to help him with the camp chores and the boys all called him "Bajo," or "Shorty." One day Bajo got sick, and the only medicine on the place was a box of Epsom salts. They didn't know how much to give in one dose, so they finally gave him six tablespoonfuls. Ed says poor Bajo stayed up

the rest of the night, but he got well soon after that.

Ed's next move was to get married. He borrowed a Model T from Boss Parkerson, and drove down to Jourdanton, Texas, where he married Etta Ophelia Story. On their way back to the Canyon, the couple stopped in Uvalde and bought some furniture, a bed, a stove, a dresser, chairs, chest of drawers, and a few other things. Ed says it all cost about \$90.00, and he had to buy it on credit.

In March, 1907, Rev. J. M. Carroll, president of San Marcos College, E. M. Francis, pastor of Uvalde Baptist Church, B. U. Briggs, pastor of Comstock Baptist Church, D. W. Matthews, pastor of Brackettville Baptist Church, and H. O. Kendall of Uvalde all joined forces in an evangelistic revival in Barksdale. The Barksdale Baptist Church probably dates its organization from that meeting. The religious spirit of the Barksdale community was considerably revived by the meeting.

Bill Felts of the Bullhead community received, on April 5, 1907, three fine Angora billies from Turkey, for which he paid a reported price of \$1500. Interest in the goat business was looking up in the Vance neighborhood. People were beginning to quit cattle raising and to run more goats on their ranches which, on account of the rough rugged nature of the country, were better suited to the raising of goats.

The goat business in Montell suffered a severe slump in 1907. The E. L. Witt and Sons ranch reported the loss of the \$1600 billy they had imported from Turkey the year before.

In August, 1907, a Baptist Encampment was established for the Montell community. Those instrumental in getting the project started were Dr. J. M. Carroll and E. L. Witt. The encampment grounds were to be located one mile north of Montell near the Witt ranch home. The encampment was to be called the Nueces Canyon Camp Meeting. Dr. Carroll was the preacher for the opening session of the camp. People from all over the Canyon country came and made their camps, staying for the entire time of the meeting.

The production of mohair was becoming a very important factor in the economy of the Nueces Canyon in 1907. Ranchmen were fast learning that the rough mountainous country was ideally suited to the raising of Angora goats. One of the biggest problems that the producer faced was

the marketing of the mohair. The nearest market, where the fiber could be processed into cloth and other salable products, was Boston, Massachusetts, hundreds of miles from the place of production. Men of vision were beginning to see the possibility of establishing a processing plant closer to the ranch country, thus eliminating the tremendous cost of transporting the mohair, and also eliminating in part the cost of the middle men involved in the marketing process. E. L. Witt was one of the first producers to suggest such a plan. He began to discuss the idea among his friends and associates, and finally a movement got underway to raise \$150,000 to build a mohair factory in the Canyon area. Mr. Witt was one of the first subscribers, pledging \$5000 to the project. The plans never did materialize. Enough people could not be interested in the business to invest their money, and sufficient capital was never raised to get the project underway.

For some months, the idea of establishing a bank in Barksdale had been discussed among the responsible citizens of the community. People in need of loans and banking facilities had to secure that service in Uvalde, Del Rio, or Kerrville. This necessity caused considerable inconvenience to local people, and plans were proposed to establish a bank in the town. A family of considerable means, by the name of Stockton, had recently moved into the community, and the proposal was mentioned to them. Mr. Stockton liked the idea, and began immediately to get subscribers to the bank stock. A charter was secured on August 2, 1907, with a capital stock of \$25,000. S. P. Stockton, H. P. Stockton, and R. A. Stewart were elected directors. The Ackerly rooming house was purchased, a vault was built on the ground floor, and the banking business soon got underway. C. P. (Charlie) Patrick, who had recently moved to the Canyon, was employed as cashier for the bank. The concern was known as the Barksdale State Bank.

Mr. Stockton, in the meantime, had purchased the Dr. Fisher home, and moved his family into Barksdale. His children were entered in the local school. Mr. Patrick bought a small place south of town from the T. P. Rhodes estate, and settled his family there. The Stockton people were members of the Church of Christ, and the Patricks were Baptists.

In 1887, some men discovered deposits of kaolin, a fine grade clay for making pottery, on the divide between Lea-

key and Camp Wood. The deposits were rather extensive, and the quality of the clay was very high. In October of 1907, a company was formed to work the kaolin deposits. The corporation soon had fifteen or twenty men working at the mine.

In December of 1907, the Barksdale Baptist Church was called together in conference for the purpose of selecting a pastor. Some weeks before, Rev. D. S. Stovall, of Marshall, Texas, had made a trip to the Uvalde and Canyon country, to explore the possibility of a pastorate in that section. Bro. Stovall was a preacher of some years' experience, having held pastorates in churches around Marshall, Texas, his most recent one being at Overton, where his family was then living. Bro. Stovall was the youngest of three boys in his family. The Stovalls were farmers in East Texas, having homesteaded places there before the Civil War. Dan Stovall was the least robust of his brothers, and the family decided that his health would not permit him to earn a living as a farmer, so they decided to give him an education. Accordingly, they put him in Baylor College, which was at that time located at Independence, Texas. Dan Stovall stayed two years in Baylor, and was a classmate there with George W. Truett.

After completing his two years of work in Baylor, Mr. Stovall was married to Ida May McCook of Upshur County, Texas, on October 16, 1890. He was licensed to preach by Hebron Baptist Church, of Harrison County, in September, 1885, and was ordained to the ministry at Jonesville, Texas, the 20th of October, 1888. The presbytery was composed of Elders A. E. Clemmons, W. H. Clelland, E. R. Fortson, and E. B. Eaken.

Before coming to Barksdale, Bro. Stovall held the pastorates of the following churches in East Texas: Cave Springs, Macedonia, Friendship, Mt. Zion, Hebron, Sharon, Overton, Providence, Mt. Sylvan, London, and Red Level. A number of these churches, he served for several years.

Bro. Stovall was also a schoolteacher. In those days, when preachers worked for very low salaries, men with large families had to do other kinds of work to supplement their incomes. Bro. Stovall taught sixteen terms of school before he came to Edwards County. The schools were Macedonia, Cave Springs, Hope, Friendship, Sandy Hill, Maple Springs, and Glade Springs; he taught five terms at Cave

Springs and six terms at Glade Springs. These teaching years ran from 1886 to 1902.

Bro. Stovall owned a farm in Harrison County ten miles east of Marshall, where his family lived most of the time during the above period. When he accepted the call to the Barksdale Church, he sold this farm to Luther Matthews, whose heirs are still in possession of the place.

The Stovall family came by train from Overton to Uvalde. Bro. Stovall shipped his household goods by freight to the same point. When the family reached Uvalde, Bro. E. L. Witt was there to meet them in his hack, and the Stovall family traveled with him to the Witt ranch at Montell, where they stayed a day or two. Bro. Witt then carried them on to Barksdale, where the Stovalls planned to make their home. A little house located near the Baptist Church was rented, where the family lived for one month. A house was then secured on Lovers' Lane, and the family lived there temporarily. The family made its next move to the John Nelson house on Main Street, and, in 1908, Bro. Stovall purchased the Sam Field place on Water Street near the Oatman house. A short time later, he bought 2.6 acres from Jack Edwards across the street from the house.

Ed Greer says that he was present in the meeting when the Barksdale Church called Bro. Stovall as pastor. Bro. Stovall's salary was fixed at \$800 per year. The Baptist Church at Montell called him as pastor in December, 1907, and he preached his first sermon in Montell in the schoolhouse on Sunday, November 22, 1907.

The first marriage ceremony that Bro. Stovall performed after moving to Barksdale was held in the home of Wes Benskin, where Mr. Benskin's daughter, Viola, was united in marriage to Mr. C. D. King. The wedding took place on Monday, December 23, 1907. The couple left for Uvalde, where they planned to make their home.

B. D. Sherrill moved to Edwards County in 1907, and went into the ranching business near Rocksprings. He also engaged in other business enterprises, organizing the Rocksprings National Bank in 1920.

In 1907, Ed Custer bought a piece of land on the river below Barksdale, and built a house on the property. He made this move for the convenience of keeping his children in school. Mrs. Custer and the children made their home in the Barksdale residence from September to May, each year, and Mr. Custer stayed on the ranch and saw after the

stock. On week ends, the boys always walked to the ranch to help with the work there.

Mr. Custer had a house full of boys. There was only one girl in the family, Edna. The oldest boy's name was George; then there was Earl, Gilbert, Jasper, and Fred. Mr. Custer believed in teaching his boys to work, but at the same time he wanted them all to get an education.

The boys used to run away from home a lot, and Mr. Custer would always have to go hunt them and bring them back. One time they ran off when Gilbert was just a small lad. He went along with the other boys, and when Mr. Custer overtook them down the road near Uvalde, he discovered that the boys were carrying, along with their other belongings, a small box of books. Mr. Custer asked them what the books were for and they replied that they hadn't wanted to take Gilbert out of school and thus deprive him of an education, so they were taking the books along to educate him themselves.

Dennis Pope recalls that soon after the bank was opened in Barksdale, he went in to cash a \$41.00 check. The cashier counted out \$81.00, and Dennis walked out. Dennis soon noticed the error and went back to the cashier's window to have it corrected. The cashier was rather gruff, and told Dennis that banks didn't make mistakes. When the cashier learned that the mistake represented a loss of \$40.00 to the bank, he gladly accepted the overpayment and apologized to Mr. Pope. Dennis says that he never had any trouble after that in negotiating a loan with that bank.

In 1907, Professor Wallace, a schoolteacher, moved into the Canyon. He taught one or two terms of school in Barksdale. He married Beulah Grantland, a daughter of Sam Grantland. Among the boys and girls who went to school to Professor Wallace were the J. D. Laceys, the W. B. Kirchners, the Bates', the Uzzells, the Stovalls, the Locklars, the Greers, the Becks, and the Bill Cromeans', the Stocktons, the Patricks, the John Nelsons, the Alfred Nelsons, the Ed Hills, and the Jim Browns.

The W. A. Hancock family moved into the Canyon in 1907, and bought the 800-acre Y. O. Coleman place two miles below Barksdale. A Mr. Gehardt had bought several hundred acres of the T. P. Rhodes ranch south of Barksdale, and was in the business of raising goats.

Emzy Tabor's dream of becoming a freighter came true, as far as freighting was concerned, in 1907, when he started

freighting from Rocksprings to Kerrville charging 50¢ per hundred pounds. It would take him from nine to thirty days to make the trip, and he remembers that on one occasion it took seven weeks to make the trip. He scarcely made enough to feed himself and his team while he was making the trip, and was forced to buy what his wife and baby ate and wore on credit.

One time, Bud Anderson, Pete Stockman, and Emzy were on a return trip from Kerrville to Rocksprings, and they were forced to camp seventeen miles from Rocksprings in the Diamond pasture near a place in the road they called Hell's Half-Acre. It rained that night, and the next morning Hell's Half-Acre was full of water, so they stayed there seventeen days, then dropped off their trailers, doubled up their teams, and pulled one lead wagon at a time across the mudhole. By this means they got all their loaded wagons across, and it took them two days to get the lead wagons into town.

That was one time when almost all the entire village was out of grub, and turned out "en masse" to welcome the freighters. Emzy was loaded for J. W. Cowan's store, and he says he doesn't believe he put one thing off the wagons into the store, since the people just walked up and took it off themselves and carried it home. Some arrived too late to get anything.

It took Emzy just four years to kill sixteen head of good horses, and to wear out three first-class spring wagons. That is how he came out hauling high-priced socks.

In 1907, the B. F. Helm family lived on the old Sam Grantland place southwest of Barksdale. The Bradleys lived on the river across from the Hancocks. The Wall family lived about a mile west on a place near Pikes Peak.

In 1907, the Tom Smith family moved to the Nueces Canyon and settled on Cedar Creek. Mr. Smith took up a pre-emption there about one mile above the old Welty house. Mr. Smith had married a Miss Arnold back in Burnet County, before moving to the Canyon. His father-in-law, Mr. Arnold, died back East, and Mrs. Arnold, his widow, came to live with the Smith family on Cedar Creek. Another one of the Arnold girls, Martha, who had taught several terms of school back in Burnett and Travis counties, came to the Canyon to locate a school where she could be near her people. She taught one or two terms at the Cedar Creek School, which, at that time, was located just a

short distance north of the Welty house. Miss Arnold lived with her sister, Mrs. Tom Smith. A courtship soon arose between her and one of the community's most handsome and eligible young bachelors, Mr. Dan Roberts, son of Mrs. Cody Roberts. This courtship terminated on January 24, 1907, when the young couple decided to join hands in the vows of holy matrimony. Mr. Roberts was all for having everything done just as simply as possible, so the two agreed that there would be no big ceremony. On the morning of the 24th, the two young people mounted their horses and rode several miles down the road to the home of J. T. Rutledge, a Church of Christ minister, and the local justice of the peace. The ceremony was soon over, and the young people got on their horses and started back home. The farther up the road they got, the longer Mr. Roberts' face became. The silence was finally broken when Dan blurted out to his young bride, "Now haven't we played hell?"

The Dan Roberts' made their home for a short time in the home of his mother.

Late in the year of 1907, Ellen Arnold, a sister to Martha Roberts and to Mrs. Tom Smith, came to Cedar Creek and made her home with the Dan Roberts family.

Mr. Roberts soon began to make plans for a home of his own. He settled on a pre-emption joining the Tom Smiths' on the north, and built a log cabin on the place. Later on he built a lumber house on another part of the pre-emption, and moved there. He cleared several acres of land, and ditched the water from the river that flowed through his place to land that he had cleared. His wife taught in the neighborhood school and Dan worked his farm and tended his goats, and the two young people began to prosper.

Lum Thompson tells this story about Jess Haynes, who was, at one time, a Goat Association Ranger. Jess had been building some fence on a contract, and had a Mexican working for him. When the work was finished, Jess gave the Mexican a check for the amount of his wages and signed it "Wild Bill." The Mexican didn't know the difference until he tried to cash the check some place down the line. The authorities then began to try to locate Wild Bill. Jess got worried and told the sheriff one day that he was in trouble because of the check. The sheriff replied, "Well, Jess, they will have to find Wild Bill before they can do anything to you." Jess finally got out of the mess he was in.

In 1907, the Will Manor family lived on a place on Camp Wood Creek, where the two prongs of the creek come together. The Camp Wood schoolhouse and the local cemetery were near their place. Mr. Manor married one of the W. D. Hutcherson girls.

In 1908, O. C. Pope of Barksdale ran for the office of sheriff and tax collector of Edwards County. Mr. Pope, the son of John Pope, was a prominent ranchman of the Barksdale community, and a well-known citizen of the entire Canyon area.

Mr. Pope's two opponents in the sheriff's race were S. W. Draper and J. W. Hamilton.

Another closely contested race in the November election was that for county judge. Four candidates had entered that race: A. P. Allison of the Barksdale Community, W. T. Ford, J. L. Hunter, and T. L. Lane.

Following is a list of the returns for the November, 1907 election. For sheriff and tax collector: O. C. Pope, 284 votes; S. W. Draper, 250 votes; J. W. Hamilton, 25 votes. For county judge: A. P. Allison, 203 votes; W. T. Ford, 71 votes; J. L. Hunter, 191 votes; T. L. Lane, 90 votes. For district and county clerk: S. A. Hough, 287 votes; J. S. Sweeten, 191 votes; W. H. Thompson, 77 votes. For tax assessor: A. A. Haynes, 330 votes; S. W. Dismukes, 235 votes. For county treasurer: A. L. Benton, 228 votes; T. F. (Floyd) Hamrick, 274 votes. For county surveyor: J. T. Gray, 319 votes; J. F. Winans, 236 votes. For county commissioner precinct No. 2: J. A. Townsend, 97 votes; V. B. Ross, 191 votes; A. W. Merritt, 1 vote. For county attorney: J. E. Friestman, 90 votes. For constable precinct No. 2: Alf Nelson, 2 votes; Alfred Chisum, 31 votes; Jess Smith, 3 votes; Ed Custer, 9 votes; L. G. Hill, 1 vote; Dan Rhodes, 1 vote. For justice of the peace precinct No. 2: C. C. Chappell, 151 votes. For constable precinct No. 7: D. L. Ross, 17 votes; H. R. Perkins, 28 votes.

In January, 1908, Weaver and Kirchner of Barksdale sold to Sonora parties 500 head of good Angora does at \$4.50 per head. This was one of the biggest goat deals that had been made in the Canyon in some time. Messrs. Weaver and Kirchner had recently purchased two fine Angora bucks from G. A. Hoerte. They were claimed to be the best bucks that Mr. Hoerte had imported. The Kirchner and Weaver partnership reported having sold out their entire offering of young Angora bucks for the season.

The John Shepperd family moved to Edwards County in 1908, and settled on a place east of Rocksprings known as the John Benskin ranch.

The Presbyterian Church of Rocksprings was organized in 1908. The record begins on November 27, 1908, when the Presbyterian Church USA (Northern) was transferred to Presbyterian Church USA (Southern) and thus became a member of the Presbytery of Western Texas, now the Presbytery of John Knox. The following members were transferred with the church: Dr. P. F. Robertson (ruling elder and first clerk of the session), Mrs. Mamie Shurley, Misses Cora and Clara Shurley, Mrs. Bettie Bozarth, Miss Tommie Brown, Mrs. Augusta Austin. In addition, the following were added to the membership that day: Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Jack McKee, Mrs. W. G. Brown, Jr., Miss Zora Austin, Misses Sarah, Elizabeth and Billie Brown, Miss Anna Hodge, and Miss Lula May Shurley. T. L. Lane and J. T. Brown, Jr., were the first deacons. The first pastor, the Rev. H. W. Hamilton, was called in June of 1909.

Services were first held in the Methodist and Baptist Churches and in the Ranchman's Hotel.

In 1908, the Bailey tent meeting was held in Barksdale. Only cherished memories of that event now remain, but the good work that was accomplished by the efforts of those responsible for the great revival will never be completely gone.

In 1908, Rev. D. S. Stovall, pastor of the Barksdale Baptist Church, secured the promise of Bro. Bailey to come to Barksdale and hold a series of meetings there. Bro. Bailey came according to his promise, and set up his tent on the vacant grounds east of the schoolhouse. People from all over the Canyon attended the services that followed. Many came and camped in Barksdale, and stayed through the entire meeting. Bro. Jackson of the Hackberry Church, Bro. Moses, from Rocksprings, and Bro. Matthews from Brackettville helped out in the meeting. Many people were converted and joined the Baptist Church.

One of the long-to-be-remembered things that happened during the meeting was the night when the tent blew down. Jeff McFatter recalls that he and two or three other young fellows were seated on one of the back seats. Brother Bailey was standing on a narrow rostrum getting ready to sing a special song. The name of the song was "Where Will You

Spend Eternity?" He says that Bro. Bailey was hard of hearing, and used a small old-fashioned ear trumpet which he held in one hand, holding the song book in the other. He had scarcely begun his song when the storm hit. The speaker's rostrum (with the speaker) was tumbled over, and the tent came down with a crash on the crowd of people. Pandemonium reigned for a few minutes. Jeff says that he and his bunch made a hasty exit out the back of the tent, and started toward the Uzzell Hotel, where they had prepared to spend the night; they almost reached the hotel when they heard the shouting and screaming coming from the tent; so they went back to help. Elmo Hobbs says that he and Cale Brown were seated together in the tent. One of the poles flew up and hit Cale across the head. Elmo crawled under one of the seats. Cale asked Elmo what should they do, and Elmo replied that they should get prepared to go. The Bill Cromeans family was seated just in front of Elmo and Cale. Mr. and Mrs. Gene Howerton and Dr. Eads occupied some nearby seats. Bro. Stovall's daughter, Mabel, was penned under one of the poles, and was bruised and considerably shaken.

Sam Sparks was there with his three children. He came out with the children under his arms saying he was getting out of there.

The Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Rocksprings was formerly a mission situated seventy-two miles north of Uvalde. It was first visited by a priest in 1908. He found a small community of Spanish-speaking Catholics, and a few English-speaking Catholics there.

For the next ten years, mass was celebrated in private homes. Due to the great distance and the difficulty of travel, Rocksprings was visited only once every two or three months.

1908 was the beginning of a bad drought in Edwards County. Very little rain fell during the year. Waterholes dried up, and the water problem became particularly acute on the Divide where many of the ranchmen depended on lake and pond water caught during rainy seasons. Grass got short, and some of the people had to move their cattle out of the country. Fritz Beck recalls that, on one of his mother's ranches, they shot seventeen cattle in one day, that were down and too weak to get up. This situation was aggravated by an epidemic of Anthrax. Vaccines for that dread stock disease were little-known at that time, and stricken animals nearly always died. Wagons would haul hundreds of cow-

hides taken from cattle on the Divide, that had died from thirst and starvation, to markets in Uvalde and Kerrville.

Professor Wallace was principal of the Barksdale School in 1908. One day, George Custer got mad at Prof. Wallace and was going to whip him. The teacher jerked him up, turned him across the seat, and gave him an awful thrashing.

Fritz Beck and Jack Hill attended the same school. Fritz says that Jack was awfully bad about throwing paper wads. Jack threw a wad at Fritz one day and then quickly put his nose in his book as if he were studying. Fritz had a little Negro-shooter in his pocket, which he eased out and loaded with a ball of mud. He let fly and hit Jack on the cheek with the mud. Jack jumped backward so violently that he turned his seat over. It was some time before the teacher could restore order.

In 1908, the Franklin Wallace family for a short time occupied the old Nix house, and operated the Jackson dance hall.

The Jim Pope family moved from their place north of Barksdale to the John Pope ranch. Mr. Pope and his stepson, Millard, were building up rapidly in the bee business and were deriving a considerable income from the sale of honey.

Robert Raney says that George Raney and Cale Brown joined the church during the Bailey meeting so that they could get to go with Hettie and Josie Stovall.

The Barber families moved from Bullhead in 1908. The Rube Barbers moved to Uvalde when the boys went into business, and Ab Barber moved to the Sam Grantland house in Barksdale where he continued to drive his freight line from Uvalde to Rocksprings. His children entered the public school in Barksdale.

When Ocie Pope assumed the office of sheriff of Edwards County, he and his family moved to Rocksprings. Mr. Pope appointed Len Clark, a young man of the Rocksprings Community, as his deputy in Rocksprings. Joe Casey became his deputy in Barksdale, and Albert Wells was appointed for the Vance community.

In 1908, people of the Montell community decided to organize an independent telephone company. Six men of the neighborhood, each holding \$100 worth of stock, organized a company which was known as The Citizens Telephone Company. Pat Coleman and Croften Hall were employed to put up the wires for it. The line extended

from Uvalde to Barksdale, and there was an exchange in each place, the central office being at Montell.

In 1908, Jack Patterson opened a store in Montell. This was the second mercantile business to be established in Montell.

In 1908, Scuff Raney sold out his holdings on Spring Creek and moved to Sanderson, Texas. When he ranched at Sanderson, he ran about 2500 head of goats. Scuff says that one day he and J. B. Young wanted to go into town. Two fat gentle horses had showed up on the ranch, so they saddled those two ponies and rode into town. They hitched their horses in front of a saloon and went in. The first man they met when they came out the door was Will Hunter, who happened to be the owner of the horses. Scuff and J. B. had quite a bit of explaining to do to Will, who told them that the two horses were his buggy horses.

In 1908, Will Whittley decided to sell his ranch and stock, and move to Uvalde. It wasn't long until he was on a deal with Mr. Gehardt, of Uvalde, to buy the property. One day, while the Whittley family was at the goat pen shearing goats, (Lillie says that was her first shearing experience), they heard a peculiar sound approaching from the highway. They all threw down their handshears and went to see what the racket was. Soon, the first car that Lillie had ever seen came into sight. In it was Mr. Gehardt, who was coming to close the ranch deal. Before Mr. Gehardt left, he gave all the Whittley family a ride in his automobile.

Mr. Gehardt made a trade with Elmo Hobbs to run the ranch for him. Elmo had just recently married, and was glad to get the job from Mr. Gehardt. Elmo worked at both of the Gehardt ranches, helping George Herndon on the ranch below Barksdale during the rush season. That was about the time, too, that George was courting Mamie Lacey, one of Mrs. J. D. Lacey's girls, and he needed a little time off, which Elmo was glad to give him.

Elmo lived in a little house below Lee Bottom. The Cromeans family lived right across the river from him.

In 1908, the C. S. Greer family moved from Barksdale to Utopia, Texas, where Mr. Greer bought a drugstore and went into the business of selling drugs.

In 1908, Hal Pannell entered the mercantile business in Vance and put up a store there.

On June 8, 1908, Cephas S. Greer was appointed postmaster for Barksdale. He held the office only a short time,

moving away to Utopia. Joseph E. Roberts was appointed to succeed Mr. Greer.

Jerry Burleson remembers a camp meeting they had one time on Hackberry. Bro. Jackson, Bro. Dan Matthews, and Bro. Moses were all there. There were lots of people camped around. Grandma Welch always liked to take the preachers to her house for dinner, so one day she invited the three preachers to have dinner with her. Mrs. Welch had only one cow, which didn't give much milk, but she put what butter she had on the table that day for dinner. Bro. Moses was very fond of butter and was helping himself to liberal servings of the butter on the table. Directly Erie, who was a small boy, said "Mama, he's a regular hog after butter."

Jerry tells of an experience of his when J. C. Martin was deputy sheriff. One Christmas night, the Burleson family all came down to Vance to a Christmas tree. Jerry and Johnny Colvin had just come back from Kerrville and had brought back two gallons of alcohol. When Jerry and Johnny rode up, Mr. Martin came out and met them. He said, "We don't want any disturbances here or I'll chain you to a tree." Archie Walsh then got J. C. to take a drink, Jim Worden got him to take a drink and Jerry and Johnny persuaded him to take another. Directly, he said, "Boys, it's Christmastime, give everybody a good time. If anyone wants any fisticuffs, let him have them."

After the Christmas tree, they had a dance at the Hal Pannell place. Jerry and Johnny started over and Jess Robinson got in with them. Jess told them, "Now, you boys do just like I do. I've been on a lot of them."

When the three got to the gravel bar, Jess made them leave their horses. Then they got down and began to crawl across the gravel bar on their knees. They were in the middle of the road, and people going to the dance had to go around them.

When they got to the dance, Henry Tyler and Frank Balzen made the first disturbance. Mr. Pannell made them behave and tried to make one of them put on his jacket.

About an hour later, that fellow came around to the crowd and said, "He tried to make me put on my jacket but it's still hanging on the tree. He didn't make me put it on." The man was standing there all the time, shivering and chattering his teeth.

In 1909, W. D. Hutcherson sold his place on Camp Wood

Creek and moved to Barksdale. He bought the Nix properties there, including the waterworks, the cotton gin, gristmill, sawmill and dance hall. Mr. Hutcherson was a large heavy-set man. He and Mrs. Hutcherson used to sit on their front porch, and she would cut pecans out for him with his pocket knife, and feed them to him. The Hutchersons didn't keep the Nix place long, but sold it to a newcomer, a man named Miller, and moved to a place on Bullhead.

Ed Miller, the man who bought out the Hutchersons, was an outstanding character. He had been a banker before moving to Barksdale, and came to Edwards County for his health. He was always held in high esteem by the writer, who remembers one time when he was called on by his teacher to say whom he thought were the two greatest men in America. Without hesitation he replied, "Woodrow Wilson and Mr. Miller."

On June 6, 1909, Rev. D. S. Stovall united Tom Beck and Martha Kirchner in marriage. The wedding took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Kirchner. Tom Beck, the son of Mrs. Sallie Beck, was a local ranchman of the Barksdale Community. The young couple went to make their home on the ranch of Mr. Beck. Mrs. Beck built a house for them on her ranch near Barksdale, and Tom was employed by his mother to care for her livestock.

In 1909, Oscar Lackey, son of Rev. M. S. Lackey of Rocksprings, was united in marriage to Miss Pearl Werner, daughter of the Paul Werners of the Divide country. The young couple located on a ranch fourteen miles north of Rocksprings, between the Kerrville and Sonora roads near the L. K. Henderson place.

Ellen Arnold taught the Camp Wood Creek school in 1909. The Nunn family had just moved into the community. Miss Arnold boarded with the Baldwin family.

In 1909, Ed Welch, who was confined in the Uvalde jail under a twenty-five year sentence for killing a Mr. Tanner, broke jail and made his escape. Efforts to find out who had helped him in making his getaway proved fruitless, but officers over a wide area were alerted to be on the lookout for him. Welch's case, which had been in the courts for some months, had recently been affirmed by the court of criminal appeals. He had been placed in the Uvalde jail preparatory to taking him to the state penitentiary at Huntsville.

Not long after Welch's escape, O. C. Pope, sheriff of Ed-

wards County, was notified by parties that Ed would board a certain train at Bertram, Texas. Mr. Pope, and his deputy, immediately set out for Bertram to capture Mr. Welch. He and Mac Weaver arrived at Bertram and made their plans. They waited at the station for the arrival of the train. The train soon came in and stopped. According to expectations, Mr. Welch appeared and boarded the train. Mr. Pope and his deputy waited until the train began to get underway before they got on. They climbed on and approached the car that Mr. Welch had entered. There the two officers found him. He was seated at the far end of the car with his back toward Mr. Pope and Mr. Weaver. The two men walked up to him, and Mr. Pope called out, "Ed Welch, put up your hands. You are under arrest." Welch made no resistance and the officers took him on to Austin, where he was placed in jail. Mr. Pope didn't bring his prisoner back to Edwards County and place him in the Rocksprings jail, because Mr. Welch had broken out of that jail once before.

Lum Thompson remembers that both he and his father were on the jury that tried the Ed Welch case in Rocksprings. Judge Linden was Welch's lawyer. Judge Burney was the trial judge. When the case was handed over to the jury, there were seven votes for conviction and five for acquittal. Lum says that he and his father were on opposite sides. The jury could never reach a unanimous decision, so Judge Burney turned the men loose and transferred the case to Uvalde. The case was tried there, and Welch was given a twenty-five-year sentence.

In 1909, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Huff, parents of Mrs. B. F. Helm, came to Barksdale to be near their people. Mr. and Mrs. Huff were very old people, and on their arrival in Barksdale moved into a little house near the residence of Dr. J. W. Eads. The two old people were Mrs. Eads' maternal grandparents.

The creation of Edwards County in 1883, to include territory on both the Frio and the Nueces, placed a hardship on many people on account of the distance one had to travel to get to the county seat. The problem did not improve when the county seat was moved to Rocksprings in 1891. The people on the Frio side then had to travel a long way to get to court. In 1909, people on that prong of the river began to agitate a movement to cut off the Frio Canyon part of Edwards County, and create a new county

with the seat of government at Leakey. At that time, Edwards County was not sufficiently heavily populated to support two county governments, so the plan was temporarily dropped. The name of the proposed new county was to be Evans. The election for the proposal was held February 12, 1909.

On November 8, 1909, a petition was presented to the Edwards County Commissioners Court to call an election for the purpose of voting on the question of countywide prohibition.

Prohibition has always been an issue in the Nueces Canyon and the Divide country. Barksdale, back in its early days, had open saloons. When prohibition-minded people began to settle in and around Barksdale, the issue came to a head, and, in 1889, the precinct voted to prohibit the sale of intoxicating beverages.

Rocksprings, from its beginning in 1890, permitted the operation of open saloons. Vance at one time had a saloon, and a beer joint was operated there as late as 1900.

The election to decide the issue was called to be held on November 8, 1909. Out of the 393 votes cast, 248 were for prohibiting the sale of liquor in the county, and 145 were against prohibiting its sale. The Commissioners Court immediately put the order into effect, and the saloons in Rocksprings were closed.

In 1909, C. S. Greer moved to Vance and bought the Vol Ross store. Ed, Mr. Greer's oldest son, had just returned home from college, where he had been preparing himself to teach school. Ed taught the 1909 term of school in Vance, and was elected there for several successive terms.

The Whatley family moved from the Barksdale community in 1909, and went to Smith County in East Texas. They sold their interest in the hotel and restaurant on Main Street to Bill Ake, and their store partnership to Will Threadgill. Dick Whatley, one of the boys, went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he entered school to prepare himself as an expert in watch repairing.

In 1909, the Lum Thompsons moved into the Bullhead community. They bought a lease from A. G. Wells on a place that joined the old Dan Flynn ranch on the north and the east. They had to pay 5 cents an acre for the lease. The lease went up after the first year to \$64.00 a section, and Lum finally bought this ranch.

Soon after moving to Barksdale, Bro. D. S. Stovall

bought a horse to ride back and forth to his preaching appointments. One day, a good while before he bought the horse, he came walking up the lane toward the house with a saddle on his back. Mrs. Stovall met him at the gate and wanted to know what in the world he was going to do with that saddle. Bro. Stovall replied, "Well, I'm going to buy me a horse later on, am I not?"

Bro. Stovall performed six marriages in 1909. On March 7, 1909, he united in marriage Jim Locklar and Miss Nancy Cromeans, a young Barksdale couple who were members of his church congregation there. On June 6, he performed the ceremony in which Tom Beck and Martha Kirchner were united in marriage.

On June 16, a young couple in the Camp Wood Creek community were married by Bro. Stovall. The two people were T. T. Shockley and Miss Evie George. On August 4th, he performed a ceremony in the home of Mrs. Caroline Taylor of Pulliam, whose daughter, Helen, was united in marriage to J. W. Mitchell. On October 3rd, he united in marriage a young Barksdale couple, Mr. John Laxson, son of Mrs. Pilcher, and Dolly McCarson, sister of W. E. McCarson, local Barksdale merchant. The two were joined in wedlock at the McCarson home. The next wedding ceremony was at Montell. Bro. Stovall united in a beautiful ceremony in holy wedlock one of Montell's most popular young couples, Mr. George Perkins and Miss Altah Luce. Miss Luce was the daughter of Alonzo Luce, Sr., one of Montell's earliest settlers.

In October, 1909, Miss Elizabeth Margaret Clark, the Montell postmistress, died, and Miss Eva Whitfield was appointed to take her place. The post office was located in the Patterson store.

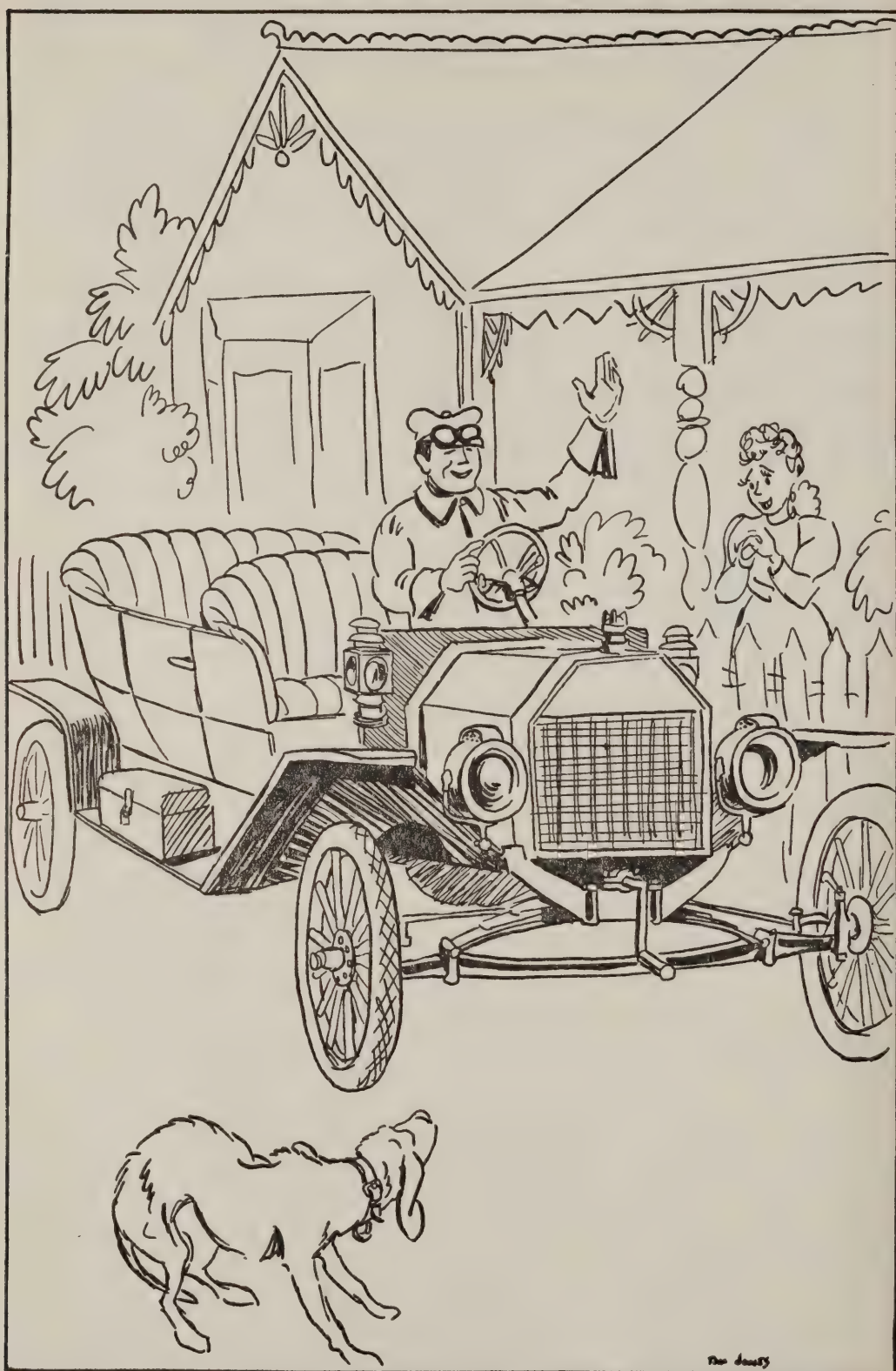
The town of Barksdale had a good baseball team in 1909. Some of the players on the team were the Nelson boys, Mart, Millard, and Lee, George Ake, Elmo Hobbs, and Russell Ware. George Ake was the star pitcher, but threw his arm away, and Russell Ware took his place as pitcher. W. E. McCarson was also playing on the team. In the summer of 1909, they had a big barbecue at the old race track near Military Flat, and on one day of the celebration, the Barksdale and Rocksprings teams played a game of baseball. It was a very closely contested game — three men up and three men down from the first inning through to the ninth. The pitchers were doing a good job. Finally, Barksdale was bat-

ting in the last half of the ninth. It was Elmo Hobbs' time to bat. Elmo strolled leisurely up to the plate, gave the bat a good grip with both hands, socked the first ball that came over, and ran out a home run, almost before the crowd realized what had happened.

Directly, the crowd went wild. Babe Taylor and Robert Raney grabbed Elmo up and put him on their shoulders and carried him all the way over the field. Elmo later remarked that he had never been able to wear the same size hat any more.

In 1909, four Latin-American men were converted and joined the Rocksprings Baptist Church. The church built a parsonage for its pastor the same year. Bro. F. G. Moses was pastor of the church at that time.

Mrs. Katie Sweeten became postmistress for the Barksdale post office on August 26, 1909.



CHAPTER VII

Transition — 1910-1920

In 1910, the Barksdale schoolhouse burned. Investigations were made as to the cause of the fire, but no clues were ever uncovered that led to the parties guilty of that act of arson. Rumors circulated for some time that local schoolboys had had a hand in the business, but the rumors were never substantiated with any sort of evidence. The loss of the building was a distinct shock to the community, and to the town of Barksdale. The board of trustees soon got busy and rented two or three buildings where school could be held until such time that bonds could be voted and a new building put up. Two of the houses that the school board rented were located near the corner of the block across Church Street, north of the L. V. Wallace store. The second floor of the Bill Ake restaurant building was used for the high school children.

The J. W. Babb family came to Edwards County in 1910. Mr. Babb bought a ranch a short distance west of Rock-springs, and began raising sheep, goats, cattle, and horses. He later added to his ranching interest by the purchase of another ranch fifteen miles west of the headquarters ranch.

Bro. Stovall had been given, in September, the contract to teach in the Barksdale School during the 1910-1911 school term, at a salary of \$85 per month.

The F. G. Moses family moved into Barksdale and rented the Oatman house. They were neighbors to the Stovall family.

Officers elected for Edwards County in 1910 were: A. P. Allison, county judge; O. C. Pope, sheriff and tax collector; S. A. Hough, county clerk; J. P. Draper, county assessor; T. F. Hamrick, county treasurer; T. S. Pickens, county surveyor; J. E. Friestman, county attorney; V. B. Ross, commissioner, precinct No. 2; Alf Nelson, justice of the peace, precinct No. 2; Ed Custer, constable, precinct No. 2.

Len Clark was appointed deputy for O. C. Pope at Rock-springs. Joe Casey and A. G. Wells held their respective appointments at Barksdale and Vance.

Rocksprings and the L. K. Henderson ranch were the scenes of two tragedies in November, 1910. On the first of November, a Mexican of the Rocksprings neighborhood rode up to the Lem Henderson ranch house and stopped his horse. Later inquiry showed that he was riding a stolen horse which he had taken from another ranch on his way to the Henderson place. He asked for something to eat. Mr. Henderson was not at the ranch at the time, and Mrs. Henderson was sitting on the front porch, sewing. Her little baby, L. K., was playing on the floor by the side of Mrs. Henderson's chair, and when Mrs. Henderson recognized the Mexican as the son of a Mexican who had once worked for Mr. Henderson, and had left the ranch with a grudge against Mr. Henderson, she was afraid to let the Mexican come in — so she told him there was no food. The Mexican then pulled his gun out and shot her through the head, got on his horse, and fled from the ranch.

The M. S. Lackeys were neighbors to the Hendersons when the killing occurred, and Mr. Oscar Lackey says that he was the first man to reach the scene of the murder. Perry Mays was the next man to arrive, and he and Oscar followed the trail and found where the Mexican had cut the fence. By that time, a considerable group of men was gathered at the Henderson ranch. Mr. Lackey went back to the house to report that the trail of the Mexican had been found, and Perry Mayes went on with the posse on the trail of the killer. In the meantime, Oscar got separated from the posse and stayed all night at the Henderson ranch.

The Mexican was Jim Hunter's shepherd. Jim Hunter was a single man at the time, and had a sheep camp near the Henderson ranch.

In the meantime, back in Rocksprings, O. C. Pope was organizing a posse of men to help track down the Mexican.

Jim Hunter, not yet having joined the organized posse of men, stumbled upon the Mexican in his camp, and held him there at the point of a gun until the posse arrived to get him. Mr. Pope and his men came later and took him on to Rocksprings to lodge him in the jail there, but before reaching town they were met by an unruly mob of nearly 100 men. The mob overpowered the members of the posse and took the Mexican. They led him to the edge of town, where some men had already gathered a pile of wood, tied him to a stake, poured oil on the wood, and set fire to the

pile. The Mexican was dead in three or four minutes. The mob gradually dispersed and scattered, and some hours later the local officers came to the spot and held an inquest. The verdict was that the victim had met death by burning at the hands of parties unknown.

There was considerable reaction from the people in Mexico against the burning. The Mexican consul at Del Rio made a trip of investigation, and in the statement he later made to his government, he said that the Mexican deserved death, that he had committed a brutal murder, and added that the general feeling of the Mexican people of Rocksprings was one of sympathy for the group that had taken the law into its own hands.

Rocksprings citizens stood guard for several nights around the Pope residence as a protection to Mr. Pope and his family, after threats had been made that a body of Mexicans would come from near Del Rio and avenge the Mexican's death.

The Robert Talley family moved to the Nueces Canyon in 1910. The family came in ox wagons, and settled on Dry Creek at the old Weber place.

On February 2, 1910, John Connell, son of Bill Connell of the Camp Wood Creek community, was united in marriage on Dry Frio to Miss Della Boales, youngest daughter of Uncle Dab Boales, one of the earliest residents of Barksdale. The wedding ceremony was performed by Brother Nelson of the Reagan Wells community.

Uncle Dab Boales at one time operated a saloon in the town of Barksdale, and while there, was shot in the arm by a stray bullet during a pistol battle in his saloon in the early '80's.

John and his young bride moved to the Llano to make their home.

In 1910, Bro. D. S. Stovall and his daughter, Hettie, went to Uvalde to attend a summer Normal session. Bro. Stovall had been hired to teach the Barksdale School, and Hettie was preparing to teach the Brushy School on Bullhead above Vance.

In 1910, the town of Barksdale had several active lodges. The Masonic lodge held its meetings on the second floor of the bank building, and the Odd Fellows and Rebeccas — and later on the Woodmen — met in the upper story of the Bill Ake restaurant.

Zac Eppler recalls that he helped Ed Hill one time to

move some cattle from the Divide to a place on Bullhead. The Bud Yosts had their cattle on the Divide at the time, and Zac was there looking after them for Uncle Bud. Mr. Hill had bought the cattle from the Strackbein ranch near Rocksprings, and Zac helped Mr. Hill to brand them out. This happened when Mr. Hill's family lived in Barksdale.

Zac says that one time when he was a young man he made a trip to Uvalde. He thinks that it was about 1910. Zac says he was always a "mean 'un," and on that trip he hi-lified a grey horse in front of Mayhew and Isbell Lumber Company building. The spot was not wide enough for the horse to turn around in, and he took a gallery post out from the front of the Smythe building. He says he hi-lified several horses and cows there that day.

In 1910, W. A. Varga, merchant and postmaster of Carta Valley, secured telephone communication with the outside world for his community by getting a telephone installed in his store and a wire connection to Rocksprings.

In 1910, Gehardt and Zachry sold their ranch below Barksdale to Jess Roberts of the Bullhead community. This ranch was the original T. P. Rhodes grant taken up by Peter Rhodes in 1878, and was a very choice piece of property.

In December, 1910, the Dan Colwells moved to the Hackberry country. Hackberry at that time was not a new place to the Colwells. Mrs. Colwell had come to Hackberry in 1884 with her father, John Newman, and had lived there a year or two, and Dan Colwell's people had settled on Hackberry in an early day, John Colwell, a brother of Dan, having homesteaded a place on Joy Creek, where in subsequent years he had acquired considerable holdings of land.

The Colwells made their first stop on the head of East Prong on the edge of the Divide.

In 1910, Ed Custer bought the Chambers place, a ranch near his holdings on Miller Creek. The place was under a three-year lease to Barney Payne, but Mr. Payne died several months before the lease period was up. W. D. Reagan moved his family to the Chambers place in 1910, and worked for Ed Custer there. Bill rented the Chambers place for one year from Ed. Mr. Reagan moved from the Chambers place to take up a lease he had on the Kruger place near Camp Wood Springs.

After the W. D. Reagans left the Ed Custer place, Mr. Custer hired the Joe Casey family, who had recently lived

on the Welty place on Cedar Creek, to work for him on his ranch, and Mr. Casey held this position for about ten years.

In 1910, the C. S. Greer family moved from Utopia to the Vance community. Mr. Greer bought the Vol Ross store in Vance. While living in Vance, Mr. Greer suffered the loss of one of his eyes. Mr. Greer was playing baseball with some of the boys of the town, and a ball thrown by Doc Pannell hit him in the eye, necessitating the removal of the eyeball.

One of the last encampments to be held at the Montell encampment grounds was in 1910. Dr. J. M. Carroll and his brother, Dr. B. H. Carroll, were there as speakers for the encampment, and Terry Hill recalls that he attended that meeting, and remembers seeing Bro. and Mrs. Stovall there with their family.

In 1900, a group of teenage girls in Rocksprings organized "The Merry Hearts Club," and adopted for its slogan, "A merry heart does good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones." The only charter member on the roll now is Mrs. J. L. Greer, Sr., the former Gussie Draper.

Edwards County had a gold rush in 1900. Carter Prather of Tarrant County, a real estate promoter, filed a plot of the town of Goldfield on August 27, 1910. The plot contained 640 acres of Survey 1, T. N. O. Railway Company original grantee, and was created out of the John Colwell ranch on the head of Bullhead. Lots were sold in the townsite to people all over the United States. The section of land later became known as the Goldfield Section. Many of the people who bought lots in the new townsite never did come out to investigate their buy. No gold was ever found on the property, because there was no gold there in the first place, the project having been a promotional scheme to make the promoters rich.

Mrs. Lum Thompson recalls that back before she and Lum were married, there were thirteen children in her family and she went on to name them: Mary, Izora, Prudie, Lucy, Susie, Eda, Leola, Marvin, Martin, Melvin, Marcus, and Merlin. She says that her mother and dad went off to town one time to be gone all day, and while they were gone, she and Mary gave all the kids a haircut. Izora called it a crewcut. She explained the technique that she used. She would select one of her mother's bowls that would fit snugly on the head, and cut all the hair that protruded from around the edges of the bowl. This method, she says, while

not producing a conventional-style haircut, made a uniform cut for the family. Her folks, she says, didn't know the kids when they got back that afternoon, but Zora says that her mother finally recognized them.

In January, 1911, a charter was granted to the Lone Star Kaolin Company of San Antonio, Texas, with capital stock of \$6000. The purpose of the company was to mine the rich kaolin deposits located on the Divide between Leahey and Barksdale. The deposits were discovered in 1887, and were first worked in 1907. The 1911 stock company soon had a party of fifteen or twenty workers on the spot, and numerous shafts were sunk in the area covered by the deposits. The clay was said to be of very fine quality, and was manufactured into the best grades of porcelain and chinaware. The clay was found in several different colors, and some of the deposits were of mixed colors.

Bear still roamed the hills of the Edwards plateau in 1911. On January 2, 1911, Jack Boales of Bowles, Texas, on Dry Frio, killed a large black bear that had been depredating for some time on his livestock. A short time before this, C. R. Roberts had killed a black bear cub on Camp Wood Creek. This feat gave Mr. Roberts the nickname "Cub," a name which he bore for many years. Mr. Roberts killed the bear with a rock.

In 1911, William Jennings Bryan was the Democratic candidate for the office of President of the United States. Mr. Bryan was known as the silver-tongued orator, and made numerous speeches over the country in his 1911 campaign. One of his famous addresses was the "Cross of Gold" speech which he delivered as a protest to the adoption of the gold standard for money.

On February 4, 1911, Mr. Bryan came to Uvalde, where he delivered another one of his famous speeches, "The Prince of Peace." Many people from the Canyon area went to see the famous Mr. Bryan, and to hear him speak in the Uvalde High School Auditorium.

In January of 1911, the fifth Sunday meeting of the Del Rio-Uvalde Baptist Association was held in Del Rio. Bro. A. B. Mayhew, of Uvalde, was moderator for the meeting. Among those present from Barksdale was Bro. D. S. Stovall. Plans for a mission to be established at Sanderson, Texas, were discussed at the meeting, and Bro. Stovall was mentioned as a missionary to the new field, in the event that the mission should be established. The Baptist people in San-

derson had been using the Sanderson Presbyterian Church building as a place of worship.

On February 10, 1911, Roy Luce and Miss McMains, of the Montell neighborhood, were married in Del Rio, Texas. The wedding came as a surprise to friends and members of the two families. The young couple returned to their home the following Tuesday.

In 1911, Reagan Wells had become a health resort of considerable fame. The following is a descriptive circular put out by Mr. Reagan in 1911. "Reagan Wells, the well that makes you well. A fine mountain resort 28 miles north of Uvalde. Altitude 2300 ft. Fine fishing and hunting. Board and room at Hotel Reagan, \$6.00 per week. Camping privileges, \$1 per week and up. Address, Reagan Wells, Uvalde, Texas."

A. B. Collins, son-in-law of C. H. Kirchner of Barksdale, a goat breeder of considerable distinction, and associated with W. B. Kirchner and others in the registered Angora goat business, bought the A. S. Baylor goats in Montell on March 10, 1910. Mr. Baylor had a flock of exceptionally fine grade goats, which stock had provided the foundation for many registered flocks over the country. Mrs. Baylor's father was one of the first Montell ranchmen to turn to the raising of fine Angoras.

On March 17, 1911, Rev. F. G. Moses of Barksdale, pastor of the Montell Baptist Church, was called upon to pastor the First Baptist Church of Uvalde.

On March 17, 1911, Mrs. J. W. Eads, of Barksdale, was elected as a delegate to the convention of the Rebecca Lodge at Mineral Wells. C. S. Greer was chosen as a delegate from the Vance Lodge. Both people reported a very interesting and instructive trip on their return to the Canyon.

C .L. Cane was the local blacksmith for the Vance community in 1911.

On April 7, 1911, Will McCullough, a resident of the Pulliam neighborhood, was waylaid and shot at twenty miles south of Rocksprings, while he was on his way home. He reported that eight or nine shots were fired, none of which hit their mark. He stated that the affair was the outcome of a feud of many years standing.

Goatmen in the Nueces Canyon suffered heavy losses in their freshly sheared flocks in April, 1911. Unusually heavy rains drenched the Canyon country and caused rises

on the Nueces River. Freshly sheared Angoras are very sensitive to cold rains, and many thousands of head have been lost in the past by ranchmen who failed to provide shelter for their freshly shorn flocks.

A very bad accident occurred at the home of Mrs. Joe Beck in Barksdale, May 12, 1911. Mrs. Beck had a fire under an iron kettle in her back yard, in preparation to putting out the family wash. One of the children found a stick of dynamite containing a cap, and threw it into the fire. In the explosion that followed, the boy's leg was broken and Mrs. Beck was severely injured.

T. D. Newell of Sonora bought the Rocksprings water-works from J. E. Eaton in 1911. Mr. Bob Barrow was employed by Mr. Newell as manager of the plant. Mr. Newell also owned the Sharp well, which is one block north of the City Hall. Water was pumped by a windmill to a tank which serviced the Mexican settlement.

A report came to Barksdale on June 19, that Joe Ash, a restaurant operator in Austin, Texas, had been killed by a shotgun wound. Mr. Ash will be remembered as the son of Dr. Ash, formerly of Barksdale. Joe Ash, at one time, operated a store and beer joint in Vance, Texas. He left a wife and two children to mourn his passing.

The first roads in the Canyon country were little more than trails. People moving into the region guided their teams and wagons through the most open spaces, and over the smoothest spots.

As a result, most of the roads were narrow and winding. The river crossings were often barriers to travel, particularly in time of flood. One of the earliest concerns of the country governments was the establishment and building of roads. By 1910, passable roads had been built to all the communities in the county and the main arteries of travel between the towns were very good ungraded dirt roads. In 1911, the Commissioners Court of Uvalde County let the contract for the building of a cement slab at the Nineteen Mile Crossing, north of Uvalde. This project was completed and opened to traffic on October 6, 1911. The Nineteen Mile Crossing had always been a difficult crossing to make on account of its depth and the loose gravel bottom. It was almost impassable to automobiles, which began to make their appearance in numbers after 1910.

When Joe Sweeten was running his store in Barksdale, a lady came in one day with a pound of butter which she want-

ed to trade for another pound of butter. She explained that a mouse had fallen into her churn the night before, and not wanting to waste all the butter that the milk might produce, she went ahead and made up the butter. She said that what people didn't know didn't hurt them, that the butter was undamaged, and that the thought of the rats having been in the churn was really the only thing wrong with the butter. Couldn't she exchange it for another pound? The customer would never know. Mr. Sweeten studied for a moment and then agreed to exchange the butter for another pound. He walked back to the icebox where he kept his farm produce and put the butter in the box, picked it up again, and walked right back to the customer at the counter. "All right, lady, here you are." The lady accepted the butter and walked out of the store none the wiser. What one doesn't know doesn't hurt one anyway — does it?

One night, while the Bailey meeting was going on in Barksdale, Sam Sparks carried his family to the tent and left them to attend the services. He then went on down to the Masonic hall to a meeting of the Masons. When the big storm came later that night, it blew the tent down. People were running about in excitement, and word came to Mr. Sparks that the tent had fallen on his wife and children. He rushed out of the lodge room, down the stairs and up the street, and never once realized until someone reminded him that he was still wearing his Mason's apron.

One time, Lum Thompson went to Rocksprings, and in the course of the day went around to the old "Green Front Saloon." The day was warm and several thirsty customers were at the bar. George and Lum walked up to the porch and started to go into the saloon. A drunken man was sitting by the door, and as Lum and George walked in, he fell over. George Field called out to George Newton, and said, "Come here, George, your sign has fallen over."

About 1913, Hettie Stovall was engaged to a young man in the Barksdale vicinity and was wearing his ring. Later on, the two young people quarreled and broke their engagement. Hettie, in the excitement of the moment, threw the ring into the well at the Stovall home in Barksdale. Years later, Mrs. Stovall had the well cleaned out and a huge pile of mud and gravel was taken out of it. One of the Stovall children was standing by to oversee the job, as children often do, and noticed something on a small pebble. The object proved to be the ring that Hettie had thrown

into the well years before. The ring had slipped around the smooth oblong stone where it remained fixed until the well-cleaning job brought it back to light.

Joe Sweeten once owned and operated a store in Barksdale on the old C. S. Greer block in Barksdale. Mr. Sweeten was famous the country over for his humor and wit, and was sometimes the butt of a joke himself. One time, a customer came into his store, and during the course of conversation that followed, the customer complained that Mr. Sweeten's prices were too high. He said that Sears Roebuck was much cheaper on dry goods. Mr. Sweeten listened patiently to his complaint for a while and then said, "O.K., I'll sell you what you need at the same price you would have to pay at Sears for the same goods." The customer readily agreed, and named off several items of dry goods that he wanted to buy. Mr. Sweeten collected the goods, wrapped them up and said, "Now, Sears charges cash from you at the price agreed upon." The purchaser was a credit customer at the Sweeten store and demurred for some time, but finally agreed to pay cash. Mr. Sweeten accepted the money, rang it up in the cash register, then picked up the package of goods and started walking over to the shelf with it. The customer, of course, inquired in no uncertain language as to the meaning of it. Mr. Sweeten left the package on the shelf and walked back to the counter in front of the customer. "Well, when you send an order to Sears, you never expect it back in less than a week or ten days, so if we are going to follow Sears' prices, we'll have to also follow Sears' delivery plan. You come back in a week and then you may have your package."

The irate customer walked out, muttering something under his breath.

One time, when the Raney boys were still living on the ranch with their dad, one of the boys came to Mr. Raney and wanted to borrow \$5.00. Mr. Raney, who was somewhat hard of hearing, put his earphone to his ear and shouted, "Hey?"

"I said I wanted to borrow \$10.00," the boy countered.

Without troubling to put the earphone back to his ear, Mr. Raney blurted out, "I thought you said \$5.00 the first time."

Early cars were very expensive pieces of machinery, when reckoned in terms of money values today. In 1911, prices of cars ranged from \$800 to \$1200 depending on the make and

body style of the car. Dealers in Uvalde in 1911 were offering 30-horsepower passenger cars for \$965, F.O.B. Uvalde, Texas.

The Del Rio-Uvalde Baptist Associations met in Uvalde at the First Baptist Church on December 29, 1911. Rev. Julius P. King, one of the speakers on the program, had for the topic of his sermon, "Wisdom in Selecting Leaders in Mission Work." Bro. King, a recently ordained minister of the Gospel, was pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church in 1911. He was a young preacher of considerable promise, with a tremendous store of energy and enthusiasm.

Mohair has always been a higher priced commodity than wool. In 1911, wool was bringing 15 cents per pound to the producer, while mohair was selling at from 30 to 32 cents per pound. In July of 1911, F. O. B. Landrum reported the sale of some extra long mohair fleeces for \$6.40 per pound. Long mohair commanded very high prices at that time, as it was in great demand for the manufacture of wigs.

In 1911, the Joe Powers family, of the Divide country near Rocksprings, sold their ranching interests and moved to Barksdale. Mr. Powers bought the old J. N. Reagan and Barney Payne ranch northwest of Barksdale, where he moved his family. A little later on he bought the Stockton interests in the First State Bank of Barksdale, and set his son, Ross, up as cashier of the business. Mr. Ross Powers, who had recently attended business college, moved to Barksdale with his family and established his residence in the Oatman house.

In 1911, Rev. Massie was pastoring the Barksdale Baptist Church. Bro. D. W. Matthews, early preacher in the Canyon and first pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church, left Edwards County in March, 1911, to do some traveling.

C. S. Greer bought the corner lot where the Dr. Ash house was located, and put up a store building in Barksdale. He also purchased the R. T. Lewis house and moved his family there.

In 1911, the Z. T. Vernor family moved from Dewville in Titus County, to the Vance community. Mr. Vernor purchased a ranch two or three miles south of Vance, and put up a store building there. Mr. Vernor had been in the mercantile business in Dewville before moving to the Canyon. He sold out his interests there for considerable cash, and invested it in real estate in the Canyon country. The location of his store below Vance was known for many years as Ver-

norville. Mr. Vernor was also a nurseryman of considerable experience. He very early saw the possibilities of grafting the native pecan stock of the Nueces Canyon with improved varieties of pecans. He was one of the first men in the Nueces Canyon to do this type of work on an extensive scale. Mr. Vernor also bought a small ranch from the Bort family. That ranch was located just outside the town of Vance, on the Bullhead road. Mr. Vernor topped and budded many of the pecan trees on that place, as well as timber on his place south of town.

Mr. Vernor's boys helped him with the work on the ranches and in tending the store business. Some of the boys freighted supplies from Uvalde for their father's store and for other local merchants. Jay, Tom, and Will did quite a lot of that type of work.

Perhaps the first work done in budding papershell varieties of pecans on the native stock was done by W. D. Bunting of the Laguna community. Mr. Bunting owned a river-front ranch at 14 Mile Well, north of Uvalde, that had several miles of river bottom set to native pecan timber. Mr. Bunting began top-working and budding that timber in 1911. In later years it became one of the most productive papershell pecan orchards in the Southwest.

Proposals for a railroad from Uvalde to Barksdale were being made in 1911. A survey of the route for a railroad was actually begun in 1911, but threats of World War I caused a delay in the work, which was not again taken up until several years later. The rough hills of the Balcones escarpment, particularly that part which drains into the headwaters of the Nueces River, has for centuries been covered with a stand of virgin heart cedar timber, the most durable material in the world for making posts, telegraph poles and corral pen material. Many of the Canyon's earliest settlers used cedar logs as the material for building their cabins. Some of those cabins still stand after weathering the ravages of time and the elements for more than 100 years.

It was to provide an outlet to the markets for this valuable reserve of cedar timber that the idea of a railroad for the Canyon was first conceived.

On December 15, 1911, Mrs. Sarah Hill became postmistress for Barksdale. The post office was located in a little building joining the Ramsey house.

In August, 1911, a petition for a right of way for a telephone line from Barksdale to Rocksprings was presented to

the Edwards County Commissioners Court. This petition was presented by the Lone Star Telephone Company of Del Rio, Uvalde, and San Antonio, a stock company formed in 1907 by J. A. Dean, L. A. Field, and others.

In 1911, W. K. Whittley bought a section ranch on the Dry Frio above Reagan Wells. He leased two other sections adjoining his section. A month or so after moving his herd of 400 or 500 goats to the ranch, somebody bought the two leased sections. This forced Mr. Whittley to sell, and he moved his family and livestock to the Dry Creek community, where he bought the old Jack Cromeans place from Proc Webb.

Lon Webb lived up the creek on the next ranch at that time. Dave Pennington lived at the headwaters of Dry Creek on the old Hazelwood ranch.

Election returns for Edwards County for November, 1912, were as follows: county judge, A. P. Allison, 338 votes; W. J. Lockhart, 71 votes. County clerk, S. A. Hough, 323; M. D. Taylor, 89. Sheriff and tax collector, O. C. Pope, 203; R. F. Dismukes, 160; Sam Taylor, 59. Tax assessor, J. P. Draper, 340; J. W. Haynes, 72. County treasurer, T. F. Hamrick, 336; J. W. Sharp, 49. County surveyor, T. S. Pickens, 104; M. Nelson, 86.

The Vance box was thrown out in 1912.

Fritz Beck owned a belt-drive motorcycle in 1912. He and Robert Dorn used to come through Main Street of Barksdale at full speed, riding on the handlebars of their motorcycles. Fritz says he started driving a car about 1912. His family owned the seventh car to come to Barksdale. Fritz taught Tom Beck, Marion Winans, and Mrs. Jim Rhodes how to drive a car. He used to drive Mrs. Rhodes' Model T Ford for her quite often. Model T's in those days were equipped with Armstrong starters, and many people got broken arms from cranking the Model T's.

When he first began his medical practice in the Canyon, Dr. Eads made his calls in a buggy, but in 1912 he bought a one-cylinder Busch car.

Fritz says he used to help Dr. Eads set broken arms. Dr. Eads would have Fritz take his shoe off and put his foot under the patient's armpit and pull until the broken parts of the bone were joined.

The writer remembers the year 1912 as the year he started to school. The primary grades of the Barksdale School were taught in a little house north of the Lee Wallace store.

His first teacher was Miss Maud Hill, and all of her pupils were crazy about her. He remembers some of the boys and girls who attended that school: the W. D. Reagans, the George Chants, the Ab Barbers, the Sam Sparks', the Jim Popes, the George Walls, the Ed Custers, the Ed Weavers, the W. B. Kirchners, the John and Alf Nelsons, the M. J. Bates', the Luther Browns, the C. S. Greers, the Walter Becks, the Charley Felts, the Joe Becks, the C. P. Patricks, the Stocktons, and the Bowden Hutchersons. There were many others whose names he cannot recall. Millard Thompson and Russell Ware were in high school at that time, and Millard says that that was his last year in school.

The other teachers in the school were Mr. Havens, principal, and Wallace Hancock, intermediate teacher. W. A. Hancock, father of Wallace, Bill, and Holly, had recently bought the Y. O. Coleman place two miles below Barksdale.

The family of John Leonard moved to Edwards County in 1912, and bought a place on Pulliam Creek north of Barksdale from Jim Gray, the old Burr place. Prior to their coming to the Nueces Canyon, the Leonards had lived in the Indian Territory, and in Lincoln County, New Mexico, during the time when Billy the Kid was terrorizing that part of the country.

1912 was a good year for the pecan industry. Prices paid in Uvalde markets in 1912 averaged 10 cents per pound.

Miss Hettie Stovall of Barksdale contracted to teach the Hackberry School for the 1912 term. Pupils attending the Hackberry School that year were the John and Dan Collwells, the John Hicks', the Merritts, the Allbrights, the Welchs, the McCurtys and the Crooms. The discipline problem in the school got to be too big for Miss Stovall to handle, so she tendered her resignation to the Board of Trustees. The board then employed Miss Ellen Arnold of Cedar Creek to finish out the term. Miss Arnold had recently taught in the Cedar Creek, the Camp Wood, and the Leahey schools.

Miss Arnold possessed a head of beautiful bright red hair. She also had a temper of the same fiery color, and a will that was not to be daunted by ordinary occurrences of the day. On the first day of school, she made the following remark to her pupils. She said, "This school may not be taught out to the end of the term, but I'll be here the last day it is taught." She did teach the school, and finished the term to its scheduled close. She says she used an old prescription of

hers for disciplinary complaints of her young charges — liberal doses of strong hickory tea.

In August, 1912, Alfred Nelson of Barksdale was appointed to succeed Jim Pope, who had recently resigned as justice of the peace of Precinct No. 2.

In 1912, a northern real estate promotor came into the country and started the town of Schreiner, in the northwestern part of the county. A few lots were sold in the townsite, and a plot of the town was filed in the court records on January 23, 1912. This town, along with the town of Goldfield, created back in 1910, has long since been relegated to the category of ghost towns.

Pastors of the Rocksprings Baptist Church before 1911 were: D. W. Matthews, F. G. Moses, G. E. Fred, J. H. Jackson, and J. A. Curter. J. P. King was the pastor in 1911. The first Women's Missionary Society organized by the Rocksprings Baptist Church was begun before 1900. In those days, the group was called the Ladies' Aid Society. Mrs. D. W. Matthews was the first president of the new organization. W. M. S. did good work for the church down through the years. They paid for the parsonage in two years by selling salve, bonnets, and giving suppers. They bought the church bell. The first Ladies' Aid began in 1912 with five members. This group gave a box supper which netted \$12.50, the money being contributed to Bro. Lackey, who was ill.

The first car in the Hackberry and Vance country was a Ford Model T owned by Pat and George Welch. People say that these two used to take turns driving the car, being very careful that one didn't drive the car farther than the other. Albert Wells says he finally bought that car from Andy and George.

On Thursday, March 13, 1913, Nicolas Montoya, a young Mexican man of the Rocksprings community, murdered his young sweetheart, Angelita Nieto, a beautiful young Spanish girl, at the W. T. Anderson ranch. The scene of this crime was about twenty-five miles northeast of Rocksprings, where Angelita was staying with her grandparents, Pedro Valdez and his wife. The murder was said to have grown out of a love affair, Nicolas Montoya having been an unsuccessful suitor for her hand for several years. He had recently become desperate and was said to have threatened to kill her if she did not marry him while she was in Rocksprings, a week or so before the killing, but she had slipped away to the ranch. He followed her later to press his suit, and on Thursday,

March 13, repeated the threat. The girl tried to give him the dodge by slipping away into a small brushy pasture near the house, but he followed stealthily, armed with a .38-calibre carbine, knocking her down, breaking the gun stock off and then shooting her in the right eye, the bullet coming out under the left ear and causing instant death. An old unarmed Mexican man followed Nicolas to try to prevent the killing, but was too old and slow. Pedro Valdez was plowing a mile from the house. He came to the house at the excitement, went back and got his horse, and followed the murderer about two miles through the brushy pasture, and next morning showed the posse the trail where he had left it.

Sheriff Pope being away in the northwest part of the county, deputy Len Clark collected a posse and went out that evening, camping that night on the Knust ranch about halfway to the scene of the murder, hoping to intercept the murderer.

On Friday morning, deputy sheriffs Len Clark and Perry Mayes, with posses, were working the trail from the Anderson ranch where Pedro had put them on it, with much difficulty over rough ground. N. E. Fred, Ed Sharp, and Fred Lowrance went out to the Knust pasture ten miles out on the Kerrville road, and struck the trail of a lone man on foot, following it two or three miles through the pasture south of the road coming in the general direction of the town. They consulted, and decided they would follow it to the fence about a half-mile to the south, and about one mile to the west, and if it crossed the fence they would know it was not made by a herder on the ranch. Then they would go and notify the main posse, as they were only three very young men, and not fully armed, having only two rifles and a pistol.

The trail now becoming more difficult owing to the rocky ground, it became necessary to follow on foot; so Fred took the horses and pistol, a good .38-caliber Colt, and gave Sharp his Winchester, and Sharp and Lowrance, remarking that the Mexican must have turned upon the hill, turned back. Sharp followed on in the direction of the last trail, and had gone just a few steps when a shot rang out. Sharp turned and threw up his hands, exclaiming, "He has killed me, boys," took a few steps and fell. He had come on the man unexpectedly crouched in a little gulch behind a thin skirt of brush eighteen or twenty feet away from him. His rifle was found open showing that he was killed while in the

act of throwing a cartridge in his gun. Fred, from the low hill some fifty yards away, jumped off his horse in time to see Sharp fall, and saw the Mexican slipping crouched through the brush; the Mexican fired twice at Fred, one bullet raking the crown of his hat and leaving a yellow streak. The brush obscured Lowrance's vision, and the Mexican escaped into the brush. Fred ran to the nearest phone to summon help, and Dr. Rogers hurried out but found poor Sharp dead, the ball having entered the left breast and lodged under the skin under the right arm. Quite a number of men, including Constable M. Z. Weaver, rushed out to the scene, but could not find the murderer.

The day was spent in difficult trailing over rough country in diverse directions, where only experienced men could find a trail.

A posse was organized in Barksdale, and as the hack carrying the supplies went up the main street in Barksdale, the team got frightened and ran away, causing considerable excitement in the town. The team broke loose from the hack, and Earl Robinson finally overtook them on his horse and brought them back.

Rob Grantland and Andy Welch were in the posse of men that left Barksdale to hunt the wanted man. Rob and Andy and Deputy Len Clark and one other man watched a Mexican camp about ten miles west of Rocksprings on the Secor Henry ranch, but Montoya did not make his appearance there.

Sheriff Pope reached town late Friday evening, and immediately began phoning for bloodhounds. Sheriff Hess of Frio County came with a young dog, only partly trained, but of great help in following the trail at times.

Saturday morning, Perry Mayes and John Guthrie succeeded in finding the trail which had been lost on the rocks south of where Sharp was killed, and followed it south to near the northeast corner of the Henry pasture about five miles south of town. Here late Saturday afternoon, Edwin Dismukes and Fred Lowrance saw the Mexican at a distance, and also found a razor he had dropped there which was identified as his. The dog was brought, but unfortunately a herder had been near the spot a very short time before, and the dog was put on his trail and trailed him to his camp very promptly. Night came on before he could be put on the right trail. The night was freezing, but a number of men stood guard at different places all night with the hope of

picking up the Mexican, but the wily outlaw approached not one of them.

Sunday, the trail was followed with much difficulty through the brushy pastures of Benton and Fields to the Edwards pasture east of town, thence northeast to the cemetery, where the dog was able to lend assistance in the trailing. Many people had been in the cemetery Saturday at the two burials. The trail was lost for a while until S. H. Guthrie, an expert at trailing, picked up the trail at the girl's grave, and followed it through Gaines' pasture to the north edge of town, south to a point some forty yards from the house of Manuel Torres, where the outlaw probably detected the presence of guards in the house, and did not approach, going back into D. M. Elm's pasture.

Monday, the trail was followed with less difficulty, across the Sonora road one mile from town into Babb's pasture, south a short distance, then west into the Fred pasture and into the Burt Brown and the Moody pastures.

One of the greatest excitements occurred Monday when Burt Brown phoned from the Fred ranch to say that the Mexican outlaw was coming to the house. Gregorio and his buddy, relatives of the murdered girl, were on their way to the Webb and Parker ranch, and at the four and one-half mile gate about one and one-half miles this side of the Fred ranch, seemingly had mistaken a live oak stump through the brush for the outlaw, and sent the word into town. W. T. Anderson's car was ready and he, M. Z. Weaver, F. L. Layne and others rushed out to investigate, along with a number of other men on horseback. Fortunately, the mistake was discovered before the trailers were taken off.

The murderer was trailed to the Jackson ranch. On Wednesday, Sheriff Pope and his posse were joined by Sheriff Allison of Sonora, and a United States marshal from San Angelo.

The trail of the fugitive eventually led into Mexico, and the Mexican government would never co-operate in effecting his apprehension and capture.

Eight or ten years after this terrible tragedy occurred, Lum Thompson was overseer on a big ranch in Mexico. Mr. Thompson worked Mexicans all together on the ranch, and at one time had a Mexican named Montoya working for him who answered to the description of the wanted man. Lum says that he had heard this Mexican talk about the events surrounding the killing of Sharp and the Mex-

ican girl. Of course, Mr. Thompson's hands were tied, since he could not help in any way to follow the case through to see if the Mexican actually was the one who had committed the murder.

On April 12, 1913, the following notice appeared in the *Rocksprings Rustler*:

We, the undersigned citizens of Edwards County, Texas, agree and bind ourselves to pay the amount set opposite our respective names for the capture and delivery to any jail in the State of Texas. (Within 12 months from the 5th of April, 1913, of Nicolas Montoya, Mexican, who is charged with the murder of Angelita Nieto on March 13 and the murder of Ed Sharp on March 14, 1913, in Edwards County, Texas.) Names: W. T. Anderson, \$25.00; Robert Real, \$125; M. Z. Weaver, \$5.00; S. H. Hough, \$5.00; J. E. Friestman, \$10.00; M. O. Grooms, \$1.00; L. M. Doyle, \$5.00; A. E. Buswell, \$2.50; O. C. Pope, \$25.00; E. B. Draper, \$5.00; T. A. Ralston, \$5.00; A. W. Owens, \$2.50; T. L. Layne, \$1.00; C. L. Taylor, \$5.00; H. W. Clark, \$2.50; W. G. Brown, \$5.00; C. B. Shurley, \$2.50; S. W. Dismukes, \$1.00; Lon Smart, \$2.50; R. F. Dismukes, \$1.50; J. D. Eaton, \$2.50; R. C. Woodridge, \$2.50; G. M. Carson and Son, \$5.00; *The Rustler Standard*, \$1.00; Street Gilmer, \$5.00; E. L. Dismukes, \$3.00; Joe Kirkland, \$5.00; J. H. Connell, \$3.00; Gus Fleisher, \$2.50; First State Bank, \$5.00; S. A. Kirkland, \$10.00; W. J. Greer, \$25.00; H. C. Young, \$2.50; W. M. Bradford, \$5.00; H. H. Winn, \$5.00; V. A. Brown, \$50.00; J. E. Rogers, \$5.00; A. P. Allison, \$7.50; J. W. Gilmer, \$5.00; W. C. Parkerson, \$5.00; T. F. Hamrick, \$5.00; L. A. Clark, \$2.00; Rev. George L. Keever, \$1.00; C. E. Franks and Son, \$5.00; B. D. Sherill and Son, \$10.00; J. A. Winn, \$25.00; J. Shod Lowrance, \$10.00; J. E. Thurman, \$10.00; G. C. Earwood, \$20.00; R. H. Earwood, \$15.00; Ira Kuykendall, \$5.00; S. A. Epperson, \$10.00; Henry Felts, \$2.50; S. S. Henry, \$5.00; L. K. Henderson, \$10.00; Sam Hester, \$2.50; T. W. Dobbin, \$10.00; Lee Hatch, \$5.00; D. O. Hayne, \$10.00; Mrs. Paul Werner, \$10.00; Mark Bean, \$10.00; L. V. Wallace, \$5.00; O. D. Coleman, \$2.00; J. A. Connell, \$1.50; S. H. Grantland, \$1.50; George Cromeans, \$2.50; B. A. Stewart, \$1.00; J. A. Blalack, \$1.00; J. A. Powers, \$5.00; F. L. Nelson, \$1.00; C. S. Greer, \$2.50; Wren Carruthers, \$1.00; W. B. Roberts, \$5.00; J. J. Eads, \$1.00; Joe Sweeten, \$1.00; R. J. Raney, \$2.00; Tom Beck, \$1.00; M. M. Casey, \$1.00; R. T. Lewis, \$1.00; C. E. Daly, \$2.00; Alf Nelson, \$1.00; Ross Powers, \$1.00; Mart Nelson, \$1.00; J. R. Ware, \$1.00; J. L. Nix, \$1.00; J. W. Green, \$1.00; J. C. Allison, \$1.00; Wallace Han-

cock, \$1.00; R. S. Grantland, \$1.00; J. W. Eads, \$1.00; S. P. Stockton, \$2.00; Tom Cromeans, \$1.00; J. E. Roberts, \$2.50; Ed Custer, \$5.00; Edward Miller, \$2.00; W. C. Beck, \$2.00; C. T. Stillwell, \$1.00; W. E. McCarson, \$5.00; J. C. Clark, \$5.00; W. B. Kirchner, \$5.00; S. E. Powers, \$2.00; F. M. Cromeans, \$2.00; F. F. Wallace, \$1.00; J. F. Rhodes, \$5.00; J. C. Pope, \$2.00; Jim Taylor, \$2.00; C. W. Benskin, \$5.00; G. W. Wood, \$1.00; B. A. Hamrick, \$1.00; G. C. Hamrick, \$5.00; W. B. Hamrick, \$1.00; John Leonard, \$1.00; L. A. Field, \$5.00; Rob Coalson, \$1.00; S. S. Field, \$5.00; J. D. Harrington, \$5.00; Obie Wallace, \$1.00; Dick Field, \$1.00. Total, \$700.00.

The State of Texas offered an additional \$200 reward.

Water rates in Rocksprings in 1913, as announced by J. D. Eaton, owner of the waterworks, were: A family of two, \$1.50 per month, 15 cents for each additional person or 25 cents for two people.

Barber shops, \$1.00 per chair, and \$1.50 for bathtub; all stock 10 cents per head.

In 1913, civil service examinations were given in Uvalde for the office of postmaster for a number of towns in the Uvalde area. There was an opening in the Barksdale office. The writer's mother, then a widow with eight children, was encouraged to take the examinations for the post. Members of the local Masonic lodge helped her in many ways to see that she was able to take the trip and, in the event she passed the tests, to help her in getting the appointment. Mrs. Stovall, at her wits' end to find ways of supporting her family, decided to try for the job. Accordingly, several days before the examinations were scheduled to be given, she got in the family buggy and started on the trip, taking Lula, one of the girls, with her. One of the worst floods in the history of the Nueces Canyon had just recently occurred on the Nueces. The roads were in terrible shape, and the river crossings were almost impassable. Somehow or other, Mrs. Stovall, by the grace of God and by her inflexible purpose, was able to make the trip through to Uvalde. There she took the tests, after which she and Lula started on the return trip home. They made the trip to Barksdale without trouble, and arrived safely at their home in Barksdale.

Of course, the family was eager to hear about everything that had happened and what they had seen, so Mrs. Stovall told them the story. One incident, in particular, the writer remembers. Mrs. Stovall and Lula had reached the Nineteen

Mile crossing on the trip down, and the river was still swollen. Mrs. Stovall urged the horse into the stream, and the buggy went off into a deep hole that covered the bed of the vehicle. With great difficulty, the horse finally pulled the buggy out of the hole and on across the stream.

Mrs. Stovall went on to tell about the houses that were destroyed in the flood, and of the huge trees that washed up and were stranded up and down the river banks. She told of a traveling salesman who had made his camp, on the night of the rise, on the bank of the Nueces near Uvalde. People warned him that he was camped in a dangerous spot, but he scoffed at their warnings. The night of the rise, he was waked up by the noise of the flood, and was barely able to escape with his life. He lost his vehicle and sales goods and a very valuable stock of silverware that was in his stock of merchandise.

Mrs. Stovall secured the appointment, and assumed the duties of the office on October 18, 1913. She rented a little building on Main Street, in front of the John Nelson house, where she later moved the post office equipment.

In 1913, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Sutherland, of the Camp Wood Creek community, announced the birth of a baby girl, whom they named Catherine. Of course, all the members of the Stovall family were eager to see the new baby, as were the uncles and aunts in the W. D. Sutherland family. The writer remembers the first trip he made to the home of his sister after the baby was born. He and his sister, Mabel, and Clara Uzzell, borrowed Mr. Uzzell's buggy and an old sorrel horse, and started down the road to the John D. Sutherland place. The party traveled for some time, and everyone noticed that the horse was acting queer and at times would stop and refuse to go any further. Several examinations of the equipment revealed no trouble, and everyone was puzzled about what to do next. Finally, Clara noticed that something was wrong with the horse's collar, and after inspecting that part of the horse's harness, Clara found that the collar had been put on upside down. After straightening the collar, the horse went on down the road at his usual gait and the party soon arrived at their destination.

It has been forty-five years since that little incident happened, but it still brings on a little chuckle from the writer when it comes to his memory.

Fitzhugh Beck says he always drove the family car when the Becks went anywhere. He remembers one time when they

had a funeral in Barksdale. In 1913, the road to the cemetery ran between the schoolhouse and the Church of Christ building. After the road reached the bottom of the hill, it jogged sharply to the right, and went a short distance, where it made another sharp turn on Church Street to the west. Fitzhugh Beck was driving his mother's car that day, and was following close behind Mrs. Kruger in the funeral procession. Mrs. Kruger was in a buggy drawn by an old grey horse. At one point, the procession stopped suddenly and Fitzhugh Beck ran into the back of Mrs. Kruger's buggy with his car. Mrs. Kruger pulled back sharply on the reins and the shaves to her buggy were broken. Fitzhugh Beck remembers one other thing about that incident. He says that it cost him \$17 to fix the buggy, and he adds that dollars were dollars in those days.

Several families of Mexicans used to live in Barksdale. One family lived on the river bank near the Ed Custer house. That was the Martinez family, and the mother of that family was a widow. She had several children. Mrs. Martinez's name was Marie, and people always called her old Marie. She had two young children, Gregoria and Victoriano. Old Marie always made the tamales for the community, and she had a five-gallon pail in which she carried her tamales in her rounds over the town. The writer remembers that the tamales were always warm, and that Mrs. Martinez kept them so by keeping a rag hung around the pail.

One time, several families in the community lost articles of clothing and other things from their homes. An investigation was made and all clues led to the Muños family. So the case was tried in Justice Court. Sheriff Len Clark was there as bailiff, and Justice of the Peace Alf Nelson was the trial judge. An enormous quantity of clothing, toilet articles, and household goods was piled on a desk in front of Judge Nelson. Mrs. Jim Rhodes was first called to the witness stand. She was able to identify many of the articles as being her own. Other witnesses followed Mrs. Rhodes to the stand, and finally the case was turned over to the Judge. Mr. Nelson assessed a pretty heavy fine and gave the guilty parties a good lecture before dismissing the case.

First Real County officers were: Bud Huffman, sheriff; W. H. Carr, county judge; John Burns, county clerk; Zac Eppler, tax assessor; Joe Haynes, treasurer; George Field, commissioner of Vance precinct.

O. C. Pope tendered his resignation as sheriff and tax collector in 1913, and the Commissioners Court appointed Mr.

Pope's deputy, Mr. Len Clark, to succeed him to the office of sheriff. Mr. Pope moved back to the Barksdale neighborhood, where he went into the ranching business.

In 1913, an election was called in an effort to legalize the sale of beverage alcohol in Edwards County. The vote for prohibition was 155, and the vote against prohibition was 109. John Barleycorn had again taken a beating at the polls.

In 1913, elections were called in Edwards County to cut the county into two parts and create a new county. This move was initiated and carried out to provide the people of the Frio Canyon a government center closer to their section of the country, and more accessible to the folk in that area. The election carried, favoring the creation of a new county, and the name Real was given to the new county in honor of one of the county's early settlers, Robert Real.

In January of 1913, Charlie Felts was living in Barksdale and operating the old Jackson dance hall. He gave a big dance there one night in January of that year, which people from all over the neighborhood attended.

Bonds for building a new schoolhouse in Barksdale were voted in 1913. The contract to put up the building was given to Johnson and Ayers, an Austin firm, and the specifications called for a three-classroom building made of native stone. The structure was in the shape of a T, with two rooms on the west side and one room on the east side. The two west rooms were provided with folding doors which could be pushed back against the two walls, thus providing a large room for an auditorium. A crew of five or six men worked several months in putting up the building. The rock used in the edifice was quarried in the Barksdale neighborhood, and the stone masons shaped the stone with their hammers and drills after they were laid down at the site of the school building.

The writer was nine years old when the work on the new schoolhouse was being done. He was a newsboy at the time, and made a few nickels each week selling papers to the people in Barksdale. The men on the building crew were his regular customers as long as the job continued. The names of the papers he sold were *The Chicago Ledger* and the *Saturday Blade*.

Teachers elected to teach in the new school building were Mr. Pardue, principal, Miss Baker, primary teacher, and Terry Hill, intermediate teacher.

On May 16, 1913, Levi Pennington, a freighter working between Uvalde and Rocksprings, was killed by a train on

the Nueces crossing of the railroad in Sansom, Texas. It was at the same crossing that J. A. Hope of Montell had been killed some years before.

In 1913, Grover Adams, another freighter on the Uvalde-Rocksprings line, was killed when his wagon ran over him at Boggy Crossing, one mile above the Bud Field ranch. Mr. Adams slipped and fell under the wheels of his heavily loaded wagon when his saddle girth broke, killing him instantly.

In 1913, many of the people of the Grandma Cody Roberts family lived in the Cedar Creek neighborhood. Will Chant, Dan Roberts, Tom Smith, Molly Chant, Luther Roberts, Walker Sharp, J. W. Crider, Sam Taylor, and Grandma Roberts lived in the broad circle of the Cedar Creek community. Joe Connell, a brother to Grandma Roberts, lived with his family in the old Grandma Welty house. Molly Chant, one of the Grandma Roberts clan, first married John Chapman, who died. She later married a Mr. Wilson. She had two children by John Chapman, George and Ruby. Joe Connell had a big family of boys and girls, and the third oldest boy was named Bill. Bill Connell and Ruby Chapman began a courtship on Cedar Creek, which ended in the marriage of the two young people, Ruby being fourteen years old at the time.

In 1913, Bill Ake operated one of the first motor freight lines in the Canyon between Uvalde and Rocksprings. He was associated in the business with Dud Edwards, son of Jack Edwards, of the Barksdale Community. Mr. Ake at one time owned the irrigated farm above the blue hole on Pulliam, and later ran a restaurant in Barksdale. The Akes came to the Canyon in 1905.

In 1913, the people of the Montell community replaced the old Montell schoolhouse with a new and much improved building. The old building was sold to the community for a clubhouse. In the same year, the Maverick school below the Will Sutherland ranch became a part of the Montell School District.

A club was organized to keep the recently acquired community house in repair. P. C. Witt was the organization's first president, and A. G. Beecroft was the first secretary. That group formed the foundation of Montell's present Country Club.

In 1913, George Ake contracted tuberculosis. Mr. and Mrs. Ake came to Barksdale and put up a tent near Mrs.

J. D. Lacey's home, where they nursed and cared for their sick boy. George grew steadily worse, and died in 1913. The family was grief-stricken. He was laid to rest in the Barksdale cemetery.

Several families moved from the Cedar Creek community in 1914. The Tom Smith family sold their place to the Dan Roberts', and moved to Burnet County. The Walker Sharps moved to a place above the old Kelley O'Leary ranch on Bullhead. The Joe Chant family moved to Barksdale, where Mr. Chant bought the old C. S. Greer Drugstore from Mr. Harris, and went into the drug business. The Joe Connell family moved to Dry Creek. The Sam Taylor family moved to Bullhead, and bought a ranch about eleven miles above Vance on the righthand prong of the river.

Bro. J. P. King, who was pastor of the Barksdale and Hackberry churches in 1913, moved into the old Welty house on Cedar Creek. That house was the one recently vacated by the Joe Connell family. Bro. King used to ride his bicycle to fill his appointments on Hackberry and at Barksdale. Later on, he bought a motorcycle, and on one of his trips the machine got out of control and ran through a wire fence with him. Bro. King was scratched up considerably in his trip through the barbed wire, and suffered severe bruises and cuts about his face.

While living on Cedar Creek, Bro. King did considerable farming. He rented an irrigated patch from Dan Roberts, and raised a lot of sweet potatoes and other vegetables. Bro. and Mrs. King were not very rich people in those days, and Bro. King had to supplement his income in various ways. He loved to fish, and was able to catch fish at any time in the stream that ran near his house. He also liked honey, and frequently robbed the bee trees and bee caves in the vicinity of his home to provide his family table with the delicious honey that he was able to obtain. One time, he and Dan Roberts went up the creek above the Roberts' house, where there was a bee cave which the two men suspected contained a considerable quantity of honey. Their equipment was crude and meager. The men depended on smoke from cedar bark to stupify the bees into submission, and had not even provided themselves with veils. Bro. King prepared a torch of cedar bark, and went about the business of getting honey from the cave. The mechanics of his cedar smudge failed to function properly, and the bees came out of the hole in a mad swarm. They covered Bro. King in a very short

time. He called for help and, with some difficulty, Mr. Roberts was able to get Bro. King to level ground, and the two beat a hasty retreat from the spot. Bro. King was in bad shape. More than 100 bee stings were removed from the top of his head and he had received numerous other stings on other parts of his body. Mr. Roberts got him to the house, and a doctor was summoned, who had to use all the skill at his command that night to pull Bro. King through the crisis.

The first Real County courthouse was a log house 22 by 40 feet. The Canyon roads in 1914 were No. 13, which was from Barksdale to Uvalde, and No. 14, from Barksdale to Camp Wood. Joe Chant was overseer of No. 15 from Vance to Leahey. Marvin O'Bryant was overseer of No. 16 from Vance to Hackberry.

In 1914, work was again started on the railroad from Uvalde to Barksdale. The grade was built five or six miles out of Uvalde, but work was again halted when the company was unable to get a right of way from some ranchmen on the proposed route. War had just broken out in Europe, and its economic effect was being felt all over the country.

The election officials for 1914 were: Z. H. Pannell, presiding officer, and S. K. Smith, presiding judge. School election officers were: Z. T. Vernor, A. Yost, Z. H. Pannell. Road overseers were: W. E. Hatley, Barksdale to Camp Wood; East Nueces, John Hicks; Vance to Brushy, Ike Howell; Bullhead to Kerrville, Jess Roberts; Barksdale to Uvalde, C. P. Patrick; Vance to Kerrville, J. B. Perry.

In 1914, the J. W. Boggs family lived across the street from the Stovalls in Barksdale. The new principal of the Barksdale School and his wife boarded with the Boggs'. The Boggs' earlier had lived in the Vance and Hackberry communities, where Mr. Boggs had suffered a severe back injury, which partially disabled him for the rest of his life. He walked in a stooped position, and always carried a heavy cane.

The Boggs and Merritt families were neighbors on Hackberry. They were good friends, and in 1914, when Burt, one of the Merritt boys, was kicked on the jaw by a mule, the Merritts brought him to Barksdale where he stayed in the Boggs home during the course of his treatment. Burt's injury was severe, but not dangerously so. One jaw had been broken by the blow from the mule's heel, and his face and head were badly swollen. He was unable to open or close his mouth, and had to be fed from a spoon; he was

able to take only liquid foods for some days. Good medical care from Dr. Eads and excellent nursing from Mrs. Boggs soon brought Burt around to recovery, and before long he was able to return to his home on Hackberry.

Just a few weeks of time had elapsed after the accident of Burt Merritt's when the hospitality of the Boggs family was again called on by another party from the Hackberry neighborhood. The writer does not recall the name, but the victim of the other accident was a young boy of a Hackberry family, and by coincidence the boy suffered a head injury from being kicked on the head by a horse.

A trustee election was held in 1914, and Camp Wood trustees were: W. E. Hatley, Fred Baldwin; Vance: Tom Reavis, Z. H. Pannell.

In July, 1914, the Collins and Weaver partnership bought the Landrum flock of registered goats. Mr. Collins and Mr. Weaver were ranchers in the Spring Creek country, and were among the many goat raisers of the Canyon who were going to considerable expense to build up the quality of their flocks.

In 1914, the Alfred Nelsons put up a garage in Barksdale in connection with their blacksmith business there. The building housing the garage equipment was located next to the blacksmith shop between the shop and the Nelson home. A good many cars were beginning to make their appearance in the Canyon in 1914, and the demand for repair work on these vehicles necessitated a business of that kind in the neighborhood. The Nelson boys, Mart, Millard, and Lee, soon became expert mechanics. The Nelson garage became a place of great activity.

In 1914, R. B. Dollahite, a newspaperman of considerable talent, moved to Barksdale. His family moved into the Nix house, and Mr. Dollahite installed his printing equipment in a little building north of the First State Bank building. Mr. Dollahite began immediately to start a campaign for subscribers to his newspaper, which he called *The Nueces Canyon News*. His plan was to enlist subscribers by having a contest to see which contestant could secure the greatest number of subscriptions to the new paper. Several people entered the contest but interest soon centered in the work of two contestants, Mabel Stovall and Mrs. Jim Wood, who were far in the lead of other contestants and closely tied in the race themselves. Interest continued to mount in the race, and a feverish excitement gripped the community as the

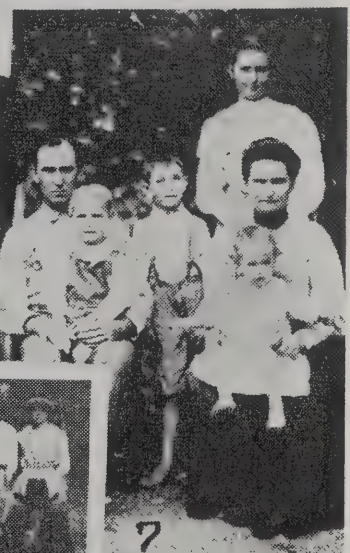
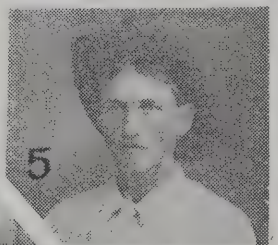
outcome of the contest still remained in doubt. The day finally arrived when the contest was to close. After the subscribers' lists for each contestant were counted, the final tally showed that Mrs. Wood had won the prize by a very narrow margin, so she was awarded the prize, which was a brand-new sewing machine.

A few months after this, the writer of this story was employed as an apprentice in Mr. Dollahite's printing office. One of his main duties was to ink the type each time that Mr. Dollahite ran off a section of the newspaper. Mrs. Stovall made an apron for her son to use in his work, which was a long garment hanging well below the wearer's knees, and serving as a protection from the printer's ink that often rubbed off the machines onto the worker's clothing.

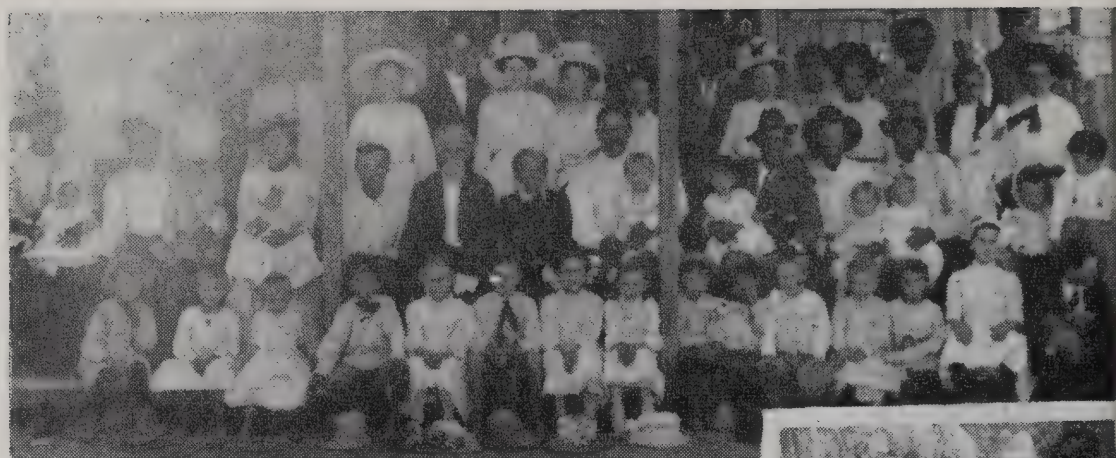
In 1914, the M. L. Clark circus came to Barksdale. Billboards and posters were put up all over the country weeks before the opening day of the show. The store buildings in Barksdale and Vance were plastered with large, colorful signs showing pictures of elephants and tigers, clowns and acrobats, pretty girls in tights riding on the backs of prancing ponies. Excitement grew as the days passed, and everybody in the country gathered in Barksdale on the opening day of the show. A street parade had been billed as the opening performance, but was later cancelled with the explanation by the circus management that the streets of Barksdale were too short and narrow to permit the parade to be carried out.

The show came from Leakey, where it had shown a day or two before. The wagons bearing the circus equipment and the animals came across the Divide from Leakey by way of Owl Hollow, and through Vance to Barksdale. Some of the wagons had difficulty in getting up Owl Hollow Mountain, and people who later reported the incident, said that the elephants were used to help get the vehicles up the hill. They were placed behind the stalled wagons, and made to push the vehicles up the hill with their heads.

The menagerie part of the circus was an education in itself to the boys and girls who had never seen elephants and tigers and giraffes before. The animals were housed in one big canvas tent, and the main circus performance took place in another big tent nearby. A two-ring performance of actors and equestrian riding stunts thrilled the audience for two hours. A brass band contributed to the spirit of the occasion.



1. The Joe Roberts family 2. Jim Wood and Davis Kite 3. Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Pope, with Emmitt and Alec 4. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Pope, with Ammon, Myrtle, Jewel, and Bud 5. Frank Reagan 6. Rosa Ellis and Roxie Jones 7. The Jim Pope family: Mr. and Mrs. Pope and children, Tot, Buddy, May, and Lewis 8. The Tom Wood family: Jim, Delia, Dan, Bunk, Annie Blalack 9. Pulliam Creek group: Members of Raney, Wood, Taylor, and Craig families 10. John Pope family. Back row: Sam Sparks and wife Zora, Lucy and Eula Sparks; O. C. and Ethel Pope and Mabel; Mamie, Maud, and Terry Hill; Jess Allison; Will Threadgill and wife Alice; Dennis Pope and wife Verdie, daughter Jewel; Archie and Chordie Pope and daughter Hattie; Aaron Connell and wife Emma and baby Ala. Row seated: Ed Hill, Sis Hill, Jack Hill, John Pope and wife, Jim Pope and wife Lizzie with Buddy and Tots on laps. Seated on ground: Emmett Pope, Alec Pope, Edna Hill, John Hill, Alta Thompson, May Pope, Minnie Threadgill, Millard Thompson, Bud and Ammon Pope, Roy Pope



1. Vance Picnic Group in front of Pannell Store: Tom Reavis family, Joe Roberts family, Vol Casey, Jess Roberts family, and others 2. John Leonard watermelon wagon 3. Mr. Otto Cloudt and Lyda Owens 4. Raymond Earwood and Boss Parkerson 5. Virginia (Mrs. L. K. Henderson) and Jessie Dodson

The management put on both an afternoon and an evening performance. That night after the last show, and when the people had all made their way to their homes, the circus crew took down the tents and packed their equipment, and the next day all that was left to greet the eyes of the town's early risers was the trash and the litter and the peanut hulls left from the performance of the day before.

Some people had spent all the money they had. Others had spent *more* than they had, but everybody agreed that they had received their money's worth in entertainment.

In 1914, John Field, Camp Wood Creek farmer and ranchman, was killed when a bluff under which he was working caved in and crushed him to death beneath the tons of dirt and rock that covered his body. Grandpa Baldwin was with Mr. Field at the time of the accident but was unable to remove the heavy debris in time to save Mr. Field from suffocation. Mr. Field was working on an irrigation ditch that ran along under the bluff that caved in.

Len Clark, newly appointed sheriff of Edwards County, bought a ranch southwest of Rocksprings in 1914, and began the business of raising high-grade Delaine sheep. Mr. Clark imported registered breeding stock from Ohio, Indiana, and Iowa. On March 10, 1913, he was married to Miss Willie L. Bannister, daughter of a pioneer San Saba County family. Mr. Clark later became an authority on the Delaine sheep.

Price of wool in 1914 was 21¾ cents per pound.

In 1914, the John Nelson boys operated a barber shop in Barksdale. Their place of business was on Main Street, in front of the house where John Nelson lived. The barber shop was the meeting place for the male population of Barksdale and surrounding communities. That was back in the days when Tom and Fyan were both young men, and were irresponsible and full of fun. One day, a group of young men of Tom's and Fyan's age gathered there for no reason at all except to kill time. Ross Cromeans and Cale Brown were in the bunch and a few other boys made up the group. Finally the march of events slowed down to a tempo that was far too slow for anything that group had ever been used to. Someone suggested a water fight. To this, they agreed. The water faucet in the shop was soon taxed to its capacity, and finally one or two of the boys began to carry bucketsful of water from the house next door. The little party finally ended with all hands exhausted and drenched to the skin, and the neat little barber shop a shambles. The

winner of the combat was never officially announced.

The Oscar Lackey family moved to the Vance community in January of 1914, from Rocksprings. Mr. Lackey bought the old Sanford ranch from Ed Waddell. Dan Matthews was preaching in the county at the time and his son, Joe Matthews, was called as pastor of the Vance Baptist Church in 1914. All church services were held in the school building.

A prominent family in the Montell community was that of J. W. Whitecotton. The Whitecotton ranch, which consisted of some 4000 acres, extended from the Nueces on the east to West Prong on the west. It was stocked with goats and cattle. Mr. Whitecotton operated a little store near the highway in front of his home. Mr. Whitecotton had bee apiaries too, which netted him considerable income from the honey flow of the native guajilla brush that covered his ranch.

The Whitecottons used to come to church at Barksdale when Bro. Stovall was pastor there, and sometimes they would take dinner in the Stovall home. On one such occasion, in relating some of his early experiences in the Canyon to Bro. Stovall, Mr. Whitecotton recalled that the family came to the Canyon back in 1875. He remembered the terrible drought the country suffered in the late 1880's when the Nueces River dried up. Then he told Bro. Stovall of the biggest manhunt that had ever taken place in the Canyon. The hunt lasted fifteen years, the lost party being a fugitive from the law. The Rangers finally came upon the hunted man where he was asleep, and effected his capture. Friends of the fugitive, the prisoner said, had brought food to him from Fort Clark to the place where he was hiding out in the Lost Creek cedar brake.

In 1915, Mrs. J. W. Eads operated a drugstore in Barksdale, and Dr. Eads had his office in a little building adjoining the drugstore on the east.

In 1915, several lodges were holding regular meetings in the town of Barksdale. The Rebecca lodge used the upper story of the old Bill Ake rooming house. The Rebecca lodge had a large membership, and held regular meetings in the Rebecca Hall. Occasionally the lodge would have installation programs to which the public was always invited, and many times these programs were concluded by a social hour and the serving of refreshments. Members of the Rebecca Lodge included the Rufus Kirchners, the Gene Howertons, the J. W. Eads', the John Nelsons, the Alfred Nelsons, Ed-

ward Miller, Mrs. Stovall, the Bud Howertons, Mrs. Sallie Beck, the W. E. McCarsons, the Jim Rhodes', and the Joe Powers family. Lige Bunk and Ben Powers were also members. There were a number of others whom the writer cannot recall.

The Woodman Lodge was another popular fraternity group, and its meetings were also held in the Rebecca Hall. Members of the Woodman Circle carried insurance in the parent organization, the Woodmen of the World. Included in the insurance payment that the policy provided for was a nice monument to be erected at the grave of deceased members.

The Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star used the upper story of the bank building to hold their meetings. Many of the prominent men of the Barksdale and Vance vicinities were members of that lodge. The wives of Masons were members of the Eastern Star organization.

Otice Coalson, Cedar Creek and Divide ranchman and old-timer, died in a San Antonio hospital from pneumonia, in 1914. Mr. Coalson was a well-known figure all over Edwards County. Zac Eppler says of him that he was a happy-go-lucky fellow, full of hospitality and generous to a fault. Mrs. Ethel Pope says he was one of the best men she ever knew, a friend to everyone, and a man of fine and distinctive personality traits.

In the early 1900's, the town lodges provided the community with much of its social life.

The Vance community had a Woodman organization. Its meetings were held in the two-story school building. All lodges in those days had an initiation ceremony for candidates for membership, and prospective members had to go through that ceremony before they would be admitted into the lodge's membership. Vance had a unique initiation ritual. One of the earliest members of the lodge had devised a rack, which consisted of a platform about four feet wide and six feet long, made out of heavy two-inch timbers. Fifteen penny spikes were driven entirely through the planks, and protruded about three inches on the opposite side, about four inches apart over the entire surface of one side of the platform. Other spikes made of pieces of leather cut to resemble large nails were similarly installed on the other side. Finally, the device was liberally sprinkled with red paint on the leather side and made to resemble large splotches of blood. The whole thing looked very realistic indeed. Of course, on

initiation nights, the candidates knew nothing about what was in store for them, and had had no previous knowledge of the above-mentioned torture rack. After initiation ceremonies were called to order, candidates were blindfolded and brought out each in his turn to be initiated. The equipment was all arranged in such a way that the candidate was required to swing from a certain joist in the building, then jump from the joist as far as he could down to the floor. As soon as the candidate had secured a firm grip on the joist, his footing would be removed and the blindfold taken off his face. He was thus left suspended in mid-air some four or five feet over the platform just described.

Dan Roberts and Andy Welch were two of the men who lived to tell their experiences from the ordeal of initiation. Dan's turn came up first on that particular night, and you can imagine his surprise and horror when he looked down and saw the devilish instrument of torture under his feet. He tried to raise himself on the joist and make an exit in that direction but his arms were too tired to pull himself up. This contingency had been foreseen by the initiators, who had managed to let Dan swing for some time before taking off his blindfold. Dan began to beg, and, when his pleas fell on deaf ears, to curse. The crowd urged him to swing himself and jump out as far as he could, and perhaps he would overleap the platform. Dan knew, as did everybody else, that this was a physical impossibility. Soon the sweat began to roll down Dan's face, and he began to threaten his tormentors. The threats went unheeded and only elicited more impossible advice from the onlookers. Finally, unable to hold on a single minute longer, Dan swung himself just as far as he was able, and landed right in the middle of the platform. Of course his flesh was terribly mangled by the sharp leather nails, but what did that matter? He was now a full-fledged member of the lodge, and could stand by and help play the same trick on the next candidate.

Poor Andy, next in line, was brought blindfolded into the room. His very step evidenced his apprehension and misgivings concerning that which was in store for him. He was soon swinging from the same rafter that Dan had so desperately clung to just minutes before. His blindfold was removed, and poor Andy let out a yell of terror when he saw what a predicament he was in. His reactions were even more violent than Dan's had been. Somebody yelled out to him as a word of encouragement: "As a friend, I would tell you

not to jump, but as a Woodman I would tell you to jump.”

“I’ll play hell,” Andy shot back. Zac Eppler says that Andy hung there until he took the lockjaw, but he finally jumped.

The Baptist Church building erected in Barksdale in 1906 was an unpainted, unsealed, frame building. In 1907, the Baptist women of the community organized a Ladies’ Aid Society. One of the first projects undertaken by the group was the sealing and the painting of the church building. They raised money for that project by giving suppers, and programs of different kinds. Aunt Minnie Rhodes was the official organ player for the church, and she was very good at getting up church programs with the young people of the community.

The women next decided to replace the old church organ with a new piano, and this they did by giving more suppers and more programs. The writer remembers one other project the Ladies’ Aid Group undertook and that was to buy a new Model T Ford for the church pastor. The car saw much service during the pastorate of that preacher, as he toured the Canyon, holding meetings wherever the opportunity was afforded. The organization continued to be active down through the years, and later on the name was changed to WMS, or Women’s Missionary Society.

People in communities not easily accessible to religious service in the towns would have preaching services and Sunday School of their own in the local schoolhouse. Bro. King used to have church and Sunday School in the Cedar Creek schoolhouse when he lived in that neighborhood, and Dan Roberts was the song leader for the services. Mr. Roberts had a wonderful bass voice and loved to sing.

On Camp Wood Creek, church services were held quite frequently in the schoolhouse, and they continued to be held there until the coming of the autos made it easier for people to go to church in the neighboring towns.

In 1915, a Baptist preacher came into the Camp Wood community and held a ten-day revival in the schoolhouse. Bro. Aiken was the preacher’s name, and being a very spirited speaker, he soon began to revolutionize the little community. Before the meeting closed, everybody in the neighborhood had either been converted or rededicated except two men. The preacher was never able to reach those two.

The names of the characters in the following are:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. John Leonard | 8. Elmo Boyce |
| 2. Steve Wallace | 9. Willvie Draper |
| 3. Will Ake | 10. John Blaylock |
| 4. Joe Kirkland | 11. Dud Edwards |
| 5. Perry Mayes | 12. Dan Woods |
| 6. W. T. Anderson | 13. Gilbert Custer |
| 7. Harold Hough | 14. Walter Welch |

THE FOLLOWING IS THE ACCOUNT OF A DANCE
GIVEN AT THE JOHN LEONARD RANCH ON PUL-
LIAM CREEK IN THE YEAR 1915.

THE GRAND OLD BALL IN THE CANYON

By Mrs. Dudley Edwards

*You can talk about grand balls and such,
But we can't have any fun.
Just give us an old Canyon breakdown
Backed up by Long Tie John.
For the other night without a fight
We had a grand old hop.
We danced about ten hours
And then we couldn't stop.*

*Old Steven played the fiddle
He played it good and strong,
He rushed them with the music
But they couldn't stand it long.*

*The music it got faster
Old Bill Ake was feeling funny
And he said he wouldn't call at all
If he couldn't earn his money.*

*The girls were all a-talking,
The boys were on the walk
But Steven's heart was light that night
And he made that fiddle talk.*

*The boys rallied bravely and
At the girls they flew,
They would liked to have stopped
But they knew it wouldn't do.
Joe Kirkland broke the record
And Perry he got next
Old W. T. couldn't stay at all
And Harold lost his specs.*

*Uncle Elmo's tongue was hanging out
Old Willvie just could pace
John Blaylock trotted down the line,
The last one in the race.*

*Old Dud sat in the corner and laughed
And Dan he chewed his thumb
While Gilbert sparked the girls
And Cutes had lots of fun.*

*The air was "Old Rye Whiskey"
A tune you all know well
And every heart was light that night
As the music rose and fell.*

*The Rocksprings girls are lovely
And you say they can't be beat
But the girls down here are lovely too
And, Oh! so good and sweet.*

*Now as I close my little song
My heart grows glad and light
With love to all the boys and girls
At the dance the other night.*

In 1912, the town of Barksdale organized a school patron's group, known as the Mother's Club, whose function was to promote good relations between the community and the school. The first library was purchased for the school that year. Many good volumes were placed at the disposal of the school by the group.

One of the first garages to be operated in Rocksprings was owned by Herman Fleischer and Sons, Herman and Gus. The business was housed in a large building on the south side of the square. A. W. Owens owned one of the first moving picture theatres in Rocksprings. S. A. Hough was one of the town's first drugstore operators.

One time, the Hackberry baseball team and the Rocksprings team played in Barksdale. A great crowd gathered to witness the game. Burt Merritt pitched for the Hackberry team that day, and Zeb Newson was the pitcher for the Rocksprings team. Barney Weaver was at the bat for Rocksprings and Burt Merritt came through with a very fast ball which caught Barney squarely on the left ear. Barney dropped as if he had been shot. Shouts of "bean ball" came from the ranks of the Rocksprings fans. Excite-

ment ran high, and it appeared likely that trouble might begin at any moment. Men rushed to the aid of Barney, who was lying on the ground by the batter's plate. He was administered first aid and was soon revived, but was unable to re-enter the game. A man named Smithy was manager for the Hackberry team at that time. Lee Wallace was manager of the Barksdale team for a number of years.

Mabel Stovall, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. D. S. Stovall, used to play the piano and organ for revival meetings over the country, after she graduated from the Barksdale High School. Money earned from that service was used to help defray her expenses in Baylor College, a school she had recently entered. Mabel played for meetings on Hackberry, at Vance, and at several small churches in the Frio Canyon. She did that work for several summers. Mabel was a very pretty young lady and an accomplished musician. She made many friends over the country. George Merritt, a young man living in the Hackberry community in those days, says that he thought Mabel was the prettiest girl he had ever seen.

The Strackbein family moved to Rocksprings, in 1915, from Kerr County, and bought the old Benton ranch south of Rocksprings. The Strackbein family became noted not only as quality ranch people, but as fine members of the community. Several members of the family became school-teachers, and one of the boys now holds a very responsible position in Washington, D. C.

The O. L. McNealy family moved to Edwards County in 1915. They bought a ranch from Will Edwards on Indian Creek, later owned by W. E. Thurman. Mr. McNealy then bought the 11,000-acre headquarters ranch from L. Rust of Del Rio, and then the Bluff Creek ranch of 11,000 acres, also from Mr. Rust.

Mr. McNealy was one of the largest producers of mohair in the nation, and at one time was perhaps the owner of more Angora goats than any other man in the United States.

A Methodist preacher by the name of Smith lived in the Barksdale neighborhood for several years. His principal occupation was farming, but he would always preach whenever an opportunity presented itself. He preached a few times in the Barksdale Church. The Methodists used the Baptist Church for their meeting place for many years. The local congregation nearly always had a pastor who would come to Barksdale about once a month and preach to the people there. One of Mr. Smith's girls married a local boy, Dec

Stillwell, who was married to Lucy Smith at the Smith home on Pulliam, in 1915.

Also in 1915, a new industry was started in the Rocksprings country. Large quantities of guano, a deposit left by bats, and a very rich fertilizer, were discovered in the Devil's Sinkhole east of Rocksprings. The quantity of the deposits seemed to be almost unlimited. Machinery was installed at the cave for lowering and elevating the workmen into the hole, and mining of the rich deposits was begun. John Ogle of the Pulliam country operated the business at one time. Dee Stillwell, one of the men in Mr. Ogle's crew, says that about twenty-five carloads of fertilizer were taken from the cave during the time he worked there. A ready market was found for this product in towns and cities, as it was very high in nitrogen, and was an excellent fertilizer for lawns, gardens, and flowerpots.

C. S. Greer and Wren Carruthers had the contract to drive the mail from Uvalde in 1915. These men purchased a used Pierce Arrow car to transport mail and passengers, but were unable to use that vehicle very long because of its poor mechanical condition. The two men finally bought a new Ford and used it to make the run from Montell to Uvalde. A hack was used on the other parts of the route.

Mr. Greer, before getting the contract to carry the mails, had sold his store business in Barksdale and moved to Uvalde. At the beginning of his contract with the government, he moved his family back to Barksdale, and made his residence in the Beck Restaurant building.

A very beautiful wedding took place at the residence of Elder D. B. Cargyle in Uvalde, on the eve of June 3rd, 1915, when Miss Effie Hale and Mr. Jack Dean were united in marriage. The wedding was a complete surprise to the young couple's many friends. Miss Hale was the daughter of J. J. Hale of Uvalde, and Mr. Dean was the son of J. A. Dean, of the Sunset Grain Company.

In 1915, a railroad connecting Rocksprings with points north and east was proposed by certain northern capitalists. The proposed route would begin at San Antonio and include in its route Medina Lake, Bandera, Medina City, Eldorado, Sonora, and Rocksprings. The plans for the project were never carried out.

Carruthers and Greer, mail contractors of Uvalde and Barksdale, relinquished their contract on September 21, 1915, and the job of carrying the mails was taken over by

P. K. Hart, ranchman of the Montell community. Rumors stated that the contract agreement called for \$2,900 per year to provide transportation between Uvalde and Rocksprings. Gus Haynes carried the mail between Barksdale and Hackberry.

The Commissioners Court of Edwards County in 1915 provided funds for the employment of two Rangers for the Edwards County area. Mr. Ed Custer, of Barksdale, was given the job for the southern part of the county. An interesting thing happened in 1915 in connection with Mr. Custer's office as Ranger. An outbuilding at the Barksdale School had burned down, and local officers were conducting an investigation in an effort to apprehend the guilty parties. In the course of the investigation, Walter Beck, constable for the Barksdale precinct, came to the Barksdale schoolhouse to serve warrants to several boys for their appearance at court as witnesses in the case. Among those summoned were one or two of Mr. Custer's boys. The day arrived for the grand jury to meet and the Custer boys didn't appear. When asked by local people later on why they had failed to show up, one of them replied, "Mr. Beck, who carries one six-shooter, told us to go. Our daddy, who carries two six-shooters and a .30-.30, told us to stay at home, so we stayed at home."

In 1915, a terrible Gulf storm struck the Texas coast and went several hundred miles inland. It came with terrific force into the Nueces Canyon country, leaving wreckage and havoc in its path. Many giant pecan trees were blown down, and houses in Barksdale and on ranches of the vicinity suffered considerable damage. The Rufus Kirchners, west of Barksdale, had, a few days before the storm, put new wallpaper on the walls of several rooms of their house. The strong wind and accompanying heavy rain completely ruined the new covering of paper. In Barksdale, Mr. Uzzell's livery stables and feed house were blown down and wrecked. Mr. Uzzell later moved his livery stables across the road and put them up again on the lots back of his hotel. He sold the original location to Ross Powers, and Mr. Powers put up a nice comfortable dwelling there for his family.

In 1915, Mrs. Minnie Rhodes taught the Camp Wood Creek School. Among the pupils she taught were Lon Webb's children. William (Bill) was entering school for his first time that year. He sat on a seat just behind Warren Hatley. Warren's folks had recently bought for him a new felt hat. Warren had laid it on the desk in front of Bill. Bill got out

his knife and cut a big V-shaped piece out of the rim of the hat. Of course, the hat was ruined. Mrs. Rhodes gave Bill a thrashing for the stunt. Mr. Webb had a rule that whenever one of his children got a thrashing at school, they would always get another when they got home. Bill and the other members of his family went on home after school that evening, and when they got there Bill climbed up on top of the front gate and began to cry. Mr. Webb walked up to him and asked him what the trouble was. Bill told him and Mr. Webb replied, "Well, son, I wouldn't worry about that. Aunt Minnie gave me a thrashing the first day I went to school to her."

Mr. Webb had gone to Miss Minnie at the Cedar Creek school when her name was still Miss Russell, back in the 1890's.

Some of the men in the Camp Wood Creek neighborhood used to play poker. Four Camp Wood Creek ranchmen-neighbors were all members of the local club. A new man came into the community, a man who was a professional at the game, against whom the local men didn't stand a chance. One day the quartet decided to frame up on this fellow and clean him of all his money. They went into town and borrowed \$200 each for the game. On the way back someone said, "You know, fellows, it just isn't right to take advantage of a poor old crippled fellow like this man. We just oughtn't to do it." They went back anyhow and matched a game with him; he cleaned out the whole bunch in about thirty minutes.

In the fall of 1916, the last big cattle drive across Edwards County was made. Plans were begun for the big drive when Walter M. Weathersby, cattleman from the Del Rio area, bought a ranch in Old Mexico, with its cattle, from Charlie Nelson. The ranch was located about ninety miles across the Rio Grande from Del Rio, and was known as the "Encino Solo," which, in English, means "Lone Oak." The cattle were branded CN on the left hip, and were called the "Charlie Nelson" cattle.

Jim Winn and Frank Cloudt bought the cows and the calves, and Jim Winn and Eugene Mayes bought the steers. The yearling steers were bought for \$30 per head and the two- and three-year-olds cost \$42.50 per head. No one seems to remember what was paid for the calves and cows.

The Mexican men that worked for Mr. Weathersby had been two or three months gathering these cattle, and they

got them all shaped up and drove them to the Rio Grande and crossed them at Fele, a railroad station about thirty miles west of Del Rio. They held them there until Jim Winn, Frank Cloudt, and Eugene Mayes could cut the steers from the cows and calves, and tally them out. This took a whole day, and in the meantime the Texas cowboys were gathering in their horses and the chuckwagon.

They had about 2600 cattle, all told, which were divided into two herds with six men to each herd. The cowboys all ate at the same chuckwagon and slept at the same camp at night.

The Texas cattle buyers made the trip from Rocksprings to Del Rio in a Model T Ford, but after they received the cattle, Eugene Mayes and Mr. Cloudt rode horses and Jim Winn ran errands in the Ford. Men who followed later on horseback to help in the drive were Dan and Dave Boone, Pat Stanford, Roy Alexander, Pop Winn, Will Ross, Charlie Donaghe, Henry Rosenow, Henry Winn, and Fred Parker-son.

On November 18, 1916, Jim Winn called Fred Parker-son and told him to get his horses and meet Henry Winn (Jim Winn's son), at the Carey Lynn ranch. Fred said he immediately got his horses, which were at the Parker and Webb ranch, and left for the great adventure, he and Henry spending the night at the home of Ed and Anna Winn, who lived on the Lynn ranch.

The next morning, Fred and Henry set out across country toward Del Rio, and by the first night arrived at a camp where Cebe Brooks was living over in the Blackman country. They received a hearty welcome at the hands of Mr. Brooks, and spent the night at his camp. They were both young men; Fred was just twenty-two, and Henry two or three months younger, but they were already veterans in the cow business. Mr. Brooks gave them directions for reaching Bob Weathersby's ranch, and after riding all morning across the ranches and strange country, they came to the place known as the Javelin place, owned by Bob Weathersby. A Negro man came out and said they had plenty of beans and bacon, so the two young punchers, tired and hungry from their long ride, really made a meal of it. Fred remembers that after dinner they went into a room with a big fire in a fireplace. Soon, a man came riding up in a sport Stutz coupe. It was Bob Weathersby, wearing a gun, which he laid down, then threw the cartridges in the fire. It caused quite a scatter

when the shells exploded. The next morning, the boys again hit the trail. They reached Del Rio in the late afternoon, and Henry took Fred to Owen Lindsey's house where they spent the night. Owen Lindsey was a brother-in-law of Bill and Paul Edwards.

That night they hired a Mexican taxi, which was a surrey with a fringe around the top, and took in the sights of Del Rio. The boys don't remember everywhere that they went, or everything they saw, but it was something new to them.

After riding all the next day, they came to Fele, where the cattle were. Fred recalls that the sun was just going down, the air was full of dust, the cattle were thin and hungry, and he would have bet there were 5000 head of them. He had never seen such a large bunch of cattle all in one place in his life.

The next morning, the men were divided into two groups of six men each, and their night guard shifts were outlined. Mr. Frank Cloudt, Jim Winn, Roy Alexander, Henry Winn, Henry Rosenow and Charlie Donaghe went with the back herd of cows and calves. Neither Eugene nor Fred remembers how the night shifts went, but both remember that for the lead herd of steers the shift was arranged in this way: first guard — Will Ross and Dan Boone; second guard — Fred Parkerson and Pop Winn; third guard — Eugene Mayes and Pat Stanford.

Dave Boone was horse wrangler for all the horses of all the men. There were about thirty-six horses in all.

In telling the story, Fred and Eugene had a good laugh when they recalled the night Fred's horse almost caused a stampede. Fred and Henry Winn were both on guard at midnight, each with his own group. Fred was on a paint horse called "Cotton Eye." Jim had warned them not to do anything to excite Cotton Eye and cause him to pitch, so when Henry rode by and wanted to light a Prince Albert cigarette, Fred got off his horse to help Henry, and away went old Cotton Eye right through the cattle and on to the remuda. Fred had to walk one and one-half miles to camp to borrow Eugene's horse, which Eugene had staked out to take his turn on his shift.

Jim had the only car in the outfit, so he went to Earl Seller's ranch and borrowed a saddle for Fred; then he put Fred to hunting horses, since another of Fred's horses, a big grey called Bill, and two of Eugene's horses, a grey and a

bay, had run off with Cotton Eye. He didn't find them until the middle of the afternoon of the second day. They had gone all the way to the Devil's River. On account of the mixup, Eugene had to ride his horse, Old Buick, for three days straight.

It was Henry Rosenow's job to get the newborn calves into the wagon at night, and then get them out again the next morning. He was just eighteen years old, and he said all he could remember was the cold. The cattle were poor, and with the new calves, they could make only about five or six miles a day, which made the trip on the road thirty or forty days long.

Several things happened that made the trip interesting as well as wearisome. The cattle were driven across country, and of course had to cross a good many ranches on the way. Most of the ranchmen were agreeable to letting the herds pass through their range, but one rancher objected. Mr. Frank Cloudt was considerably ired by the refusal, and, with his strong German accent, made it clear in no uncertain terms that they were going to cross; and they did.

When the herds reached Twelve Mile Bridge, two old bulls got into a fight right in the middle of the bridge. Eugene rode up on his old horse Buick to separate them, and one of the bulls whirled around and knocked him and his horse off the bridge into the water. It was cold and the men had to stop the herds and build a fire to dry out Eugene's clothing, which they made by setting fire to the nests of wood rats.

The drive continued on across the ranches of John Doak, Bill Whitehead, Ab Rose, Sol Wright, Tom Gobble and Whit Ellis, and arrived at V. A. Brown's ranch just before the Christmas holidays. Leaving the cows and the calves there for the winter, they took the steers on to the Marshall ranch to winter them there.

It took several more days to get the steers out to the Marshall ranch, but the drive to this ranch was made by Eugene Mayes, Fred Parkerson, Pop and Henry Winn. After they got the herd all settled, Joe Kirkland came out and took them back to Rocksprings to the Christmas dance.

Thus ended the last big cattle drive in Edwards County, an event that is now history but one which holds pleasant memories to the men who had a part in it. It is an event that serves to connect the old order with the new in the Edwards County area.

In 1916, Warren Puett and his family moved from San Saba to Barksdale. Mr. Puett bought the mercantile business of McCarson and Rhodes. Holmes Puett moved his family into the old Fisher House. Ernest and his wife rented the house recently vacated by the Jim Rhodes family, and Mr. Puett built for himself a new home on the block east of the Fisher house. Jay, another one of the family, lived in the home of his parents. The boys all helped their father in the store business. Mr. Lee Wallace had his store across the street from the Puett store.

In 1916, George Merritt took over the operation of Z. T. Vernor's store in Vance. Mr. Vernor occupied his time that year with topworking and budding the large pecan grove that joined his homeplace.

Vol Ross was postmaster in Vance in 1916. On February 18, 1916, delinquent tax roll of the town of Goldfield was disapproved by the Edwards County Commissioners Court.

Mamie Kirchner was married to S. E. (Bunk) Powers, on June 19, 1916. Mr. Powers, the son of Joe Powers, Barksdale, was a ranchman in the Barksdale neighborhood.

The O. O. Cowsert family moved to Edwards County in 1916, and bought ten sections of land north of Rocksprings, known as the Mayfield ranch.

Officers for Edwards County in 1916 were: A. P. Allison, county judge; S. A. Hough, county clerk; C. E. Franks, tax assessor; T. F. Hamrick, treasurer; J. F. Winans, surveyor; George Field, commissioner, precinct No. 2; Alf Nelson, justice of the peace, precinct No. 2; and Walter Beck, constable, precinct No. 2.

In 1916, Barksdale School had its first high school graduating exercises, with Mr. Hines as the school principal. One of his requirements for graduation was that the members of the class deliver either an oration or write a dissertation or an essay. The motto for the class that year was, "In 1915, we began to finish; in 1916, we finished to begin." Some of the members of the class of 1916 were B. J. Stewart, Gladys Patrick, Neal Gray, and Bertha Nelson.

Road overseers in 1916 were: No. 14, Wallace Hancock; No. 4-9, D. George; No. 15, Lon Roach; No. 16, Jim Waddell; No. 18, Jess Roberts; No. 19, Will Whittley.

Ed Greer was the teacher for the Intermediate School at Barksdale in 1916.

1916 was the year when the big fire broke out in the Camp Wood Creek cedar brake. The bad drought that was

to continue through 1917 was in progress at that time. The fire started in the Baldwin pasture from causes unknown, and soon covered several square miles.

Thousands of acres of valuable heart cedar timber were destroyed. Huge clouds of greyish-black smoke billowed miles into the sky. The conflagration could be seen from Barksdale, and the column of smoke was visible for many miles. Dense stiffling clouds of smoke filled the canyon of Camp Wood Creek, and the air was filled with flying ashes and sparks of burning cedar bark.

The Nueces River almost dried up in the 1916-1917 drought. The big holes of water dried up into mere puddles, and the course of the river ceased to run altogether in most places. Thousands of fish were left stranded in the drying holes, and fish were plentiful and easy to catch for many days. Big catfish and bass were caught in small puddles of water.

The 1916 Real County officers were as follows: D. D. Thompson, judge; J. W. Haynes, clerk; Al Dulaney, assessor; D. E. Huffman, sheriff; J. I. Tom, treasurer; F. M. Winans, commissioner, precinct No. 3; J. W. Lampkin, county surveyor; H. H. Jones, county attorney; A. Yost, justice of the peace, precinct No. 3; T. J. Burleson, constable, precinct No. 3.

Literary societies were fashionable back in the two decades immediately following 1900. Nearly every community had its literary society, and nearly always the organization functioned as a part of the local school program. Barksdale and Vance both had literary societies as late as 1916. The purpose of the groups was primarily to foster, and promote, learning and culture in the communities, and secondly to provide entertainment for the local people. Each society had an officer whose duty it was to collect the news of the community and phrase it in such a way that often some local person would be made the butt of a funny joke.

B. J. Stewart was filling that office in the Barksdale society in 1916. Mr. McCarson was the subject of one of his news items on one occasion. Mr. McCarson owned a very nice-looking Overland touring car, which he traded for a Saxon car. A Saxon car was a small car about the size of the present-day Baby Austin. That particular Saxon looked more like a stripped-down hot rod than it did an automobile; moreover, it was painted red. Everybody thought that Mr. McCarson had made a bad trade. Among B. J.'s news items

that night was one that said that Mr. McCarson had traded off his automobile for a grasshopper.

In 1916, the Rocksprings School District borrowed the Edwards County public school money which had been obtained from selling its land in Hockley County, and built a one-story rock school building.

The Nueces Canyon people remember 1917 as the year that the United States entered the first World War. War was declared against Germany in April, 1917, and before many days had passed, the people of the Canyon were beginning to feel the pinch of food shortages and rationing, and homes began to break up as the young men were conscripted into the armed services. There was scarcely a family in the country that was not sooner or later to feel the far-reaching effects of the war.

Wheat products and sugar were two commodities that became very scarce. Families were rationed on those items to a small fraction of their needs. People began to turn to substitutes, such as corn flour, rye flour, and potato flour. These were sold for bread-making. Honey and syrup were used in place of sugar.

Three boys from Barksdale families died in Europe while serving in the armed forces. Sam Field, son of L. A. Field, Cal Hamrick, son of G. C. Hamrick, and Virgil Lacey, son of Mrs. J. D. Lacey, were casualties of the war. The bodies of these three boys were later brought back to this country from Europe, and interred with military honors in the Barksdale cemetery.

On May 17, 1917, a \$12,000 courthouse bond was voted in Real County and carried. McCleary and Schott, of Kerrville, were awarded the contract on May 18, 1918, to build the new courthouse. The telephone company was awarded the right of way to build lines in Real County in 1917, and to establish an exchange at Leakey. Courthouse furniture cost \$243. The building was finished in November of 1918.

In 1917, O. C. Henderson came to Edwards County from Tennessee. Mr. Henderson was a young man about twenty years of age, and was looking for a spot where he could build up his health. He found the dry air and the sunshiny weather of the Nueces Canyon particularly suited to him, and he soon began to mend.

Mr. Henderson lived in a tent on the Stovall place for some time after his arrival in Barksdale. His camp was under the shade of the big pecan trees south of the Stovall

house. Mr. Henderson was a good neighbor and supplied the Stovalls with many messes of fish during his convalescence there.

The writer and Mr. Henderson once made a trip together to the Arnold Crossing below Camp Wood, and camped there for several days. Fishing was very good on that trip, and the two had fried fish for breakfast, dinner, and supper. Each night while they were there, they set a long trotline in a big hole of water above the road crossing. The first morning, when they went up to examine their line, they had two or three large spotted cats. One of the biggest of those got away before it could be landed, but one or two good ones were brought to the bank. The next night they set the line in a different location, and were assisted by a young man who lived with his mother on a little place down the river. Big sun perch were used for bait. The next morning, there was only one fish on the line but he was a big one. He was landed securely and taken to camp. His weight was estimated to be about 25 lbs. That was too much fish for one camp to use, so the writer and Mr. Henderson decided to go down to the Sutherland ranch and phone Barksdale to see if the fish could be sold to one of the stores there. The fish was staked in some shallow water on a patented steel fish stringer, and securely anchored to a big rock.

The two went on down to the Sutherland ranch and phoned Lee Wallace at Barksdale. No market for the fish could be found, so they went back to camp. They stopped by to check on the fish that had been staked, and found that he was gone. The steel hook that ran through the fish's mouth and helped hold him to the line was pulled out of its catch and straightened out. One can imagine the disappointment of the two fishermen. Provisions were running low in the camp, so they decided to walk up to Mr. McFatter's home. The three people soon were engaged in a lively conversation. Mr. McFatter told them about his ranch and family, and a number of other interesting things concerning his life. He told them of the time when he put \$10,000 in greenbacks in a baking powder can, and buried the can and its contents on the ranch. Mr. McFatter said that he had no occasion to need the money, and that it remained hidden for many months. He finally decided to dig it up and use it for some purpose, and found that the can had rusted to pieces and no longer served as a protection

for the paper money. Moreover, the bills had gotten wet and many of them had entirely rotted away. He said that he was able to recover only about \$5000 of the original \$10,000.

In 1917, the Hargus family moved to Barksdale and settled on the Willhoit ranch, recently bought by a Mr. Thompson of San Antonio. Mr. Thompson employed the Hargus family to take care of some Spanish goats that he had on the ranch. Mr. Hargus was a semi-invalid, and one of his sons, Edgar, took care of the flock, which had to be herded.

Interest in a railroad from Uvalde to Barksdale was renewed in 1917. Parties came from San Antonio to investigate the value of the cedar timber in the brakes of the Nueces Canyon. Men were employed, and sample tracts were cut in various places in an effort to determine the average value per acre of the cedar. The estimates arrived at by that project proved that the per acre return would run very high.

Some of the boys who went to war from the Montell community in 1917 were Dick Marlin, Ira Wells, Colie Humphries, Maxwell Whitfield, Ira Welch and George Baylor. Colie Humphries and Maxwell Whitfield died in the war. Ira Wells later succumbed to injuries received in the war, and Ira Welch was disabled.

In 1917, Mr. Halpin, a San Antonio capitalist, came to Barksdale and bought a 5000-acre tract of land across Pulliam, west of Barksdale. His avowed purpose was to help in the production of foodstuffs and wool and mohair to meet the wartime need.

He employed a large number of men, most of whom were Mexicans, in clearing several hundred acres of land on the tract. He built a dam on Pulliam and one on Spring Creek, where he impounded considerable bodies of water to irrigate the land he recently had cleared. The water was carried in large ditches from the lakes on Pulliam and on Spring Creek to the cultivated fields. This project continued to operate until the close of the war, at which time Mr. Halpin sold out his ranch property to local parties. Very little effect could be seen on the local food supply by the stupendous efforts of Mr. Halpin to produce more food.

Mr. Halpin's son, Warren, was placed in charge of the project at Barksdale. The young Mr. Halpin was perhaps in his early twenties at the time.

The fur industry has been for many years a source of

considerable income to the Nueces Canyon people. Pelts of raccoons, possums, skunks, foxes, civet cats, and ringtails, have always found a ready sale in Northern and Eastern markets. Prices for hides were especially high during the period covered by the first World War. Ringtail pelts brought up to \$5.25, and good coonskins sold for as high as \$12.00.

In 1917, the Lon Webb family moved to Barksdale from Camp Wood Creek, and bought the restaurant building on Main Street from Boss Beck. Boss had, a year or two before, bought the business from Roy Chapman, who moved with his family to Arizona. Mr. Chapman was a son-in-law of Sam Raney, a local ranchman, having married Mr. Raney's daughter some years before.

B. A. Stewart was the owner and operator of the old C. S. Greer store, having bought that business from Mr. Greer in 1914. Mr. Stewart also operated a ranch five or six miles above Barksdale.

In 1917, Bro. Hixon was the pastor of the Barksdale Baptist Church. He pastored the Montell Church at the same time, and made his home in the Montell community. His pastorate of those two churches ended in 1917 when he moved to Uvalde. He had been called to the First Baptist Church in that city.

Bro. T. P. Speakman was the pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church in 1917. Mrs. Loula Crosby was the church clerk.

In 1917, a church building was erected by the Presbyterian congregation in Rocksprings. It was formally dedicated on May 27th, and the Rev. Hardin of Uvalde preached the dedicatory sermon, using as his scripture Psalms 127:1, and Matthew 16:18.

In 1917, T. C. Pickett owned and operated the old R. T. Lewis drugstore in Barksdale. Mr. Pickett had married an Indian girl in Oklahoma, and had come to the Canyon for her health. In 1917, she succumbed to her illness and was laid to rest in the Barksdale cemetery. Mr. Pickett sold his drugstore business and moved away, some months later.

Lillie Perkins' father, Will Whittle, used to freight some for merchants in the Canyon. He used sixteen horses hitched to two wagons. Lillie went to Uvalde with him one time for a load of freight, and one wagon was loaded with ice on the return trip. The Gilbert family of Uvalde came home with the Whittles. A storm blew up the first night after they had camped at Arnold Crossing. Lillie says she got

in one of the wagons with the seven children, and held the bows of the wagon all night to keep them from breaking. The rest of the folks stayed in the other wagon on the ice. The next day, they had to cut big trees out of the road to get by. When the wagons got ready to leave the next morning, Mr. Whittlely couldn't find his hat. After a long search, the hat was found up on the side of Shoe Peg Mountain.

In 1917, the Sam Taylors, the Joe Chants, and Grandma Cody Roberts sold out their holdings on Cedar Creek and Bullhead, and moved to New Mexico. Joe Chant had recently married Julia Nance, a widow with two children, Talsie and Luther.

Back in 1900, Ulysses Field found a cave on his father's ranch on Pulliam Creek. He found a brass lamp in it. In 1917, Walter and Lemmie Field were hunting on their father's place. One of their dogs just disappeared into thin air. Several days later they lost another dog in the same place. They began to look around, and found a cave. They went into the cave to investigate and found both of their dogs. One of the dogs had been in the cave eleven days and the other one four or five days. Later on, Walter and Lemmie explored the cave. They found a good many dates cut in the rock, one of which was the year 1863. Several names were carved on the walls of the cave, and Walter and Lemmie supposed that they were the names of people hiding out from the law in the early days, who had sought shelter and concealment in the cave.

Ed Adams worked for Divide ranchmen in 1917, breaking horses. Ed says his wife got a big thrill out of watching him ride the broncs. He says the only way they had to go any place in those days was on horseback, until they bought a Model T in 1917, which cost them \$609. While Ed was working for Mr. Moody, his first child, Alvis, was born, and after he moved to the E. Webb ranch, his second child, Alta Belle, came along to live with them. Ed then moved to the John Tippitt ranch south of Rocksprings, and stayed there until the ranch was finally sold by its owners.

Ed's last ranching experience was on Pulliam, where he had bought a ranch from Thomas W. Masterson. While living at that place, three other children, Ada B., Elna, and Howard were born. Ed's first wife died in November, 1926, and he later married Mrs. Ora Clark, who had five children. Ed says that after that they could never have Sunday School in his community until the Adams family all got there.

Ed lost one son, Stillman Clark, in World War II.

The happiest moment in Ed's life came when, after many years, he was reunited with his own father, and he says that at the reunion that followed his finding his father, whom he had not seen in many years, he was privileged to have both his real parents and his foster parents there for the occasion.

In 1917, a number of ranchmen in the Vance community had entered the business of breeding for sale fine Angora goats. M. D. Taylor, O. L. Lackey, Charlie Risinger, and Walter Lockhart were among the earliest breeders of registered Angora goats in that area. Claud Pepper of the Rocksprings country furnished the foundation stock for several of the Canyon's registered flocks. Bob Davis of the Rio Frio country had long been in the registered Angora business, and his goats were nationally known for their fine quality. The Landrum family of Laguna dated the origin of their goats back to the first importations of Angoras from Turkey and South Africa.

In 1917, the bee business had achieved considerable importance in the Canyon. W. D. Bunting of Laguna, John D. Sutherland and the Victor family of Montell, J. C. Pope, and Millard Thompson of Barksdale, O. L. Lackey, Walter Lockhart, and Tom Reavis of Vance were in the business of producing honey on a commercial basis. The native shrubbery of the Canyon hills was ideally suited to the production of a fall honey flow, and for the wintering of bees.

In 1917, Bro. Hughes was pastor of the Barksdale and Vance Baptist churches.

Albert Wells was postmaster in Vance in 1917.

Math Casey became sheriff of Real County in 1917.

T. D. Newell of Rocksprings sold his waterworks there to John Henry, and Word Sherrill became manager of the waterworks. Mr. Newell placed his son Knox in charge of his ranch business at Barksdale.

In 1917, W. E. Hatley, of Camp Wood Creek, bought the Alfred Nelson blacksmith shop and garage in Barksdale, and put up a building across the street and north of the bank building. A large building was put up, and the most modern equipment was installed to take care of the needs of Canyon automobile operators. Forrest Hatley was placed in charge of the business.

In 1918, Terry Hill became superintendent of the Barksdale School, and his wife was elected teacher of the elemen-

tary grades. Mrs. Hill had been the intermediate teacher during one or two terms prior to 1918. Miss Cebia Guthrie was the primary teacher in 1918.

Real County officers in 1918 were: Ed Kelley, judge; Math Casey, sheriff; J. W. Haynes, clerk; E. F. Vanderbilt, commissioner. D. E. Huffman was elected sheriff, but he resigned, and Math Casey was appointed on March 19, 1919. T. M. Blackman, who was elected commissioner of precinct 3, resigned, after which George Field was appointed. Field resigned on Nov. 13, and Albert Wells was appointed in his place.

1918 marked the beginning of the prohibition era, a period of fifteen years during which time the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor for beverage purpose was prohibited over the entire nation. Law enforcement officers were required to be continually on the alert over the entire Edwards and Real county areas to enforce the prohibition law. Bootleggers and moonshiners did a land-office business, and many folks were apprehended and some sent to the penitentiary through efforts to enforce the prohibition law. Numerous stills were discovered and seized, and people were caught bringing in liquor from Old Mexico to sell to the Canyon's thirsty customers. Math Casey, sheriff of Real County, worked the Frio Canyon and the Vance Country. Ed Custer, newly-elected sheriff of Edwards County, had his hands full in running down bootleggers and still-operators in his own county. People who had never before cared for the taste of liquor suddenly developed a burning thirst for the stuff at any price the bootlegger demanded.

Officers elected for Edwards County in 1918 were: Ed Custer, sheriff and tax collector; S. A. Hough, county clerk; A. P. Allison, county judge; A. E. Friestman, county attorney; C. E. Franks, tax assessor; J. F. Winans, county surveyor; Miss Ethel McFadden, county treasurer; H. R. Perkins, commissioner, precinct No. 2; Tom Nelson, justice of the peace, precinct No. 2; W. C. Beck, constable, precinct No. 2.

The following is a list of the names of men who served in the armed forces of the United States in World War I: Lon Felts, horseshoer, army; James Little Epperson, pvt., army; Albert A. Taylor, wagoner supply, army; Lorenzo Escovedo Alarcon, pvt., army; Leslie Taylor, pvt., army; Willard E. Hatley, pvt., army; Joel Craig, wagoner, army; Kinnie B. Minica, pvt., army; Richard Hobson Cloudt, cpl., national guard; Ira. B. Franks, pvt., army; John Walker Rich-

ardson, cpl., army; Ernest Carl Kerchner, sgt. art., army; Robert H. Tobin, pfc., army; G. W. Oglevy, pfc., army; Louis Babb, seaman 2nd Class, USN; William D. Friar, seaman 2nd Class, USN; Earl E. Custer, pvt., U. S. Marine Corps; Asa Connell, pvt., army; Luther McFerran, army; Harman Cox; Lt. Arthur Dean; W. H. Hibbetts; Arthur L. Jones; Otto R. Hobbs; Ammon Pope; Tom Schultz; Enoch Smith; Claud Stewart; Leo Stewart; B. J. Stewart; Obie Wallace; John Sawyers; Jack Welch; Claud Picket; Henry Reavis; Carlton Talley; Jim Robinson; Forrest Hatley; Will T. Vernor; Frank Burleson; Fandy Hutcherson; Marcos O'Bryant; Will Vernor; Alfred Hicks; Melvin Hicks; Alfred Blair; Weldon Blair; John (Bunk) Wood; Riley Blalack; Floyd Benskin; Babe Taylor; Lee Nelson.

Appended below is a tribute to Samuel H. Field of Barksdale, Texas, who died in the service of his country in World War I.

Our country had a gallant son,
Who was so brave and true
And always watchful for the good
That he might find to do.

We always looked for him to lead,
In every enterprise
And the suggestions he would make
Were always very wise.

At church he was our choruser
And always at his place.
He showed each one a welcome there
With courtesy and grace.

He filled the home with music grand
Both instrument and song
And made the home a blessing great
To each who chanced along.

Also at college we find him,
With friends on every side
And hear them speak in praise of him
With reverence and with pride.

And now to worship they have come,
Methinks I hear them say,
'Tis time the singing was begun —
Tell Sam to come and play.

At last to service he is called
In this great war to fight.
He sails across the briny deep
And landed there alright.

Alas, he takes the measles now
Also pneumonia, too,
And they prove fatal in his case
As they so often do.

His nurse was so attached to him
She wrote his folks and said:
"Sad news indeed I have for you —
Your gallant son is dead."

"I greatly sympathize with you.
No one can take his place.
That cheerful voice and kindly look
And ever-smiling face.

"I do not ask you not to grieve.
I know there is not one
Could keep from grieving over such
A faithful, loving son.

"And we, too, miss him oh so much,
He made friends here so fast.
He had a smile for everyone
Until the very last.

"And when he on his deathbed lay,
His head all in a swoon,
'Tell Lue and Ida,' he would say,
'I'll write to them quite soon.'

"And now, dear girls and parents, too,
His life for the right was given.
Obey your God, live faithful, true,
And rest with him in heaven."

**By George W. Sewell, Rocksprings,
Texas, November 15, A. D., 1918**

A tribute to Captain William F. Bourland of Rocksprings, who was killed in World War I, appeared in the *Edwards County Leader* on Friday, Jan. 3, 1919.

A Glorious Record of Heroic Service
Captain William F. Bourland

Dear Madam:

It is with a feeling of deep sorrow and regret and personal loss that I tell you of the death of your son, Lieut. W. F. Bourland.

He was killed by an enemy machine gun bullet on the morning of October 8, 1918, on hill 269, in the Bois de Nancy.

He had but one wound and that in the stomach. He died almost immediately. We buried his body at the south edge of the Bois de Nancy, at a point whose co-ordinates on the French mapping system are . . .

His death was indeed a loss that we can never replace, for he was a very capable officer and a splendid gentleman and friend. His men loved him and would follow him anywhere, because they recognized his courage and ability and they appreciated the sterling qualities of manhood that he possessed.

Your boy died a hero, and his name will always be one to draw from the men of his regiment the highest qualities of courage and the last supreme effort for their country.

His company captured a very important hill in a brilliantly planned and executed attack. Then came the question of holding it, for the hill was a coveted prize for the enemy. If they could take it from us, they could defeat an entire attack we had planned, because it commanded the entire area. I received orders to hold the hill at all costs and I chose the best man I had to place in command. When I asked your son, "Tex, can you hold that hill?" he answered with a smile, "Major, we'll hold that hill till hell freezes over." That was the last time I saw him alive, but they held the hill against several strong attacks.

He organized a very skilful defense and then imbued his men with his own spirit to hold on no matter what happened. The enemy attacked, and captured one of his outposts. With no regard for personal danger, he ran to the attacked point at the head of some men to save the outpost. It was there that a machine gun bullet hit him and he fell, making the supreme sacrifice for his country.

Often when a leader is gone, it disorganizes a command, but the men of his company loved him so that the news of his death inspired them to heroic effort, and though they were outnumbered many times and attacked again and again, they would not budge.

It was truly the spirit of Texas Bourland that saved the hill and made our attack a glorious success.

His Major Writes,
October 22, 1918

The Spanish Flu epidemic was raging in 1918, and when the time came for Ed Custer to assume the office of sheriff, sickness in his family made it impossible to move to the county seat at once. As a consequence, Len Clark continued to act as sheriff and tax collector until the Custer family could move to Rocksprings. Later on, Mr. Clark began devoting his full time to the ranching business and the breeding of fine Delaine sheep.

Ed Greer taught the Camp Wood Creek school in 1918.

In 1918, Bunk Wood and Ethel Field of the Pulliam community were united in marriage by Justice of the Peace J. P. Allison, after which the young couple moved to Hackberry. They rented and operated a grocery business near the site of the Hackberry school and church.

T. W. Ake was an early booster of good roads in Edwards County. As early as 1919, he had this to say in regard to roads: "The people on the Divide are paying \$1.00 per 100 lbs. to get freight hauled from the railroad, but I say that I could make more money at fifty cents per 100 lbs. on a good road. Good roads are not an expense."

Directors of the First State Bank in Rocksprings in 1919 were: L. A. Schreiner, president; Lon R. Smart, vice-president; C. Axson, cashier; J. Leo Greer, F. D. Sweeten, J. P. Mayes, V. A. Brown. Assets, \$200,875.80, capital stock, \$60,000.

The State Bank of Barksdale in 1918 showed assets of \$56,061.91. Directors of the bank were: J. A. Powers, president; Ross Powers, cashier; S. E. Powers, Ed Custer.

The quarterly treasurer's report for Edwards County, ending October, 1918, showed a total balance of \$12,060.48 in all funds of the county.

In 1919, the Rocksprings Electric Light Company was organized. Dr. J. E. Rogers and J. L. Ballantyne were among the promoters of the stock company that was organized to provide electricity to the city of Rocksprings. The company started with ten stockholders, each buying \$1000 worth of shares. Will and Frank Eaton were employed to install the plant, and it was under Will Eaton's management until he bought the company in 1923. At the time of his purchase, there were a total of twenty shareholders in the company.

Block 51 was purchased from J. D. Pepper and wife for the location of the plant.

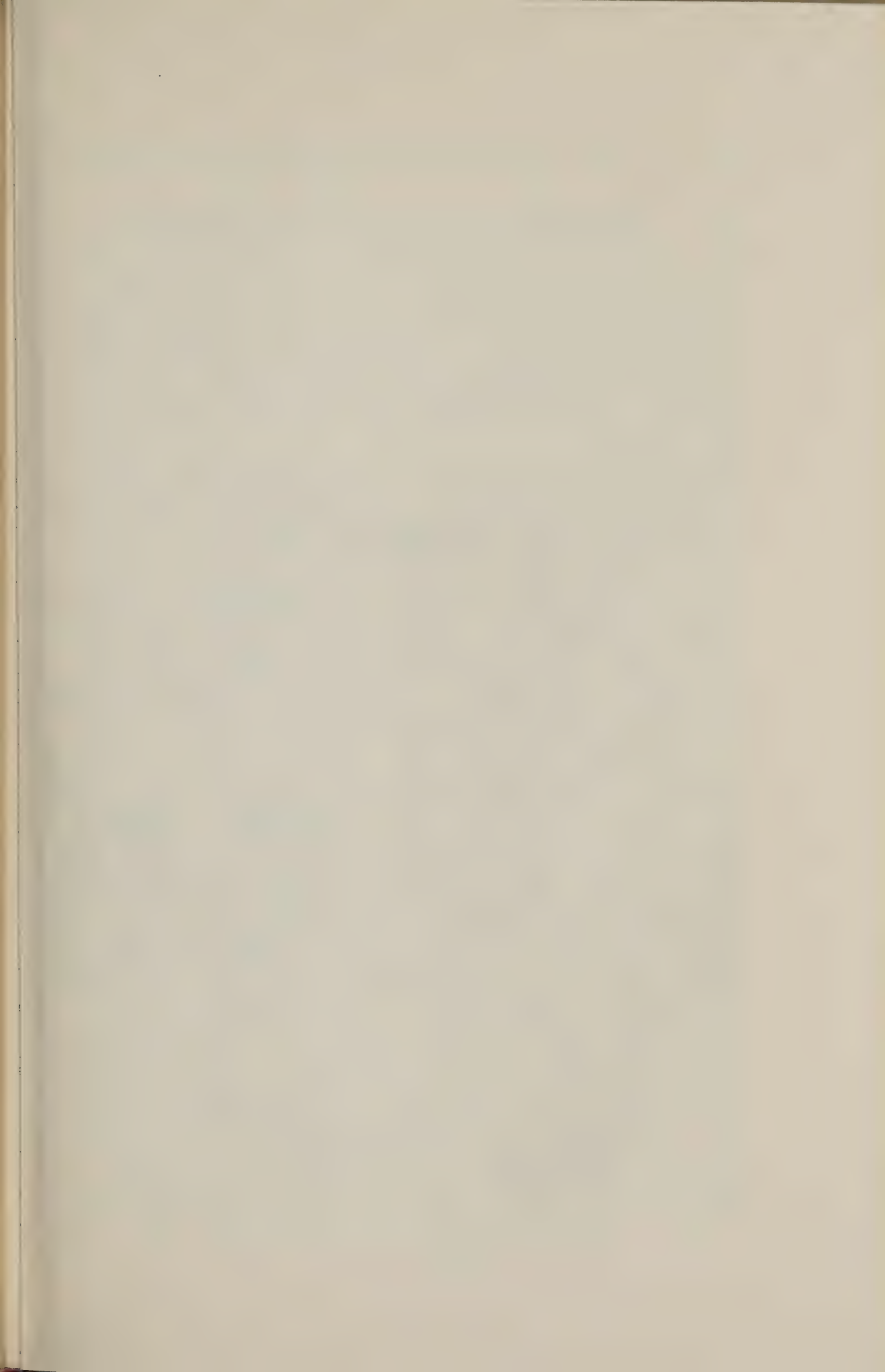
The family of John Benskin lived on Hackberry in 1919. Mr. Benskin had extensive holdings of ranch land over the

country. One day, Mr. Benskin got on his horse to see about the livestock over the ranch, and in the course of his inspection he had to cross the Hackberry prong of the Nueces. The stream was considerably swollen by recent rains, and when Mr. Benskin urged his horse into the muddy stream, the animal lost its footing and the two were carried to their deaths down the turbulent stream. Mr. Benskin's body was recovered lodged against a tree many hours later, by a searching party that had been summoned when Mr. Benskin failed to return home. The body was buried in the Rocksprings cemetery.

The Rocksprings Baptist Church installed electric lights in the church building and parsonage in 1919. The church voted to have preaching three Sundays each month instead of two. Bro. Benskin was asked to get a janitor for the church for \$4.00 per month. The church also reported that they were behind \$5.00 on water rent, so a special offering was taken to take care of the amount. Bro. T. P. Speakman was the pastor of the church.

Pastors of the Vance Baptist Church in the period immediately preceeding the year 1921 were Bro. Hughes and Bro. Reynolds. Bro. Hughes was pastor of the Barksdale church in connection with his pastorate at Vance.

The Vance Baptist Church building, which was begun in 1920, was completed in 1921. Late in the year 1921, the construction of a Baptist parsonage was begun in Vance. The project was financed by the Barksdale and Vance churches, who were each receiving half-time from the same pastor.





CHAPTER VIII

The Roaring 'Twenties — 1920-1930

Mr. Werner paid \$18.00 per head for sheep in 1920. Some sheep sold for as high as \$32.00 per head during the boom period following World War I. In the early 'twenties, stock and wool prices began to fall, and many ranchmen were forced into bankruptcy by the resulting decrease in the price of their stock and wool prices. Cattlemen also suffered from the price break.

The chronology of the tenure of schoolteachers for the Raney and Pulliam schools has been forgotten with the passing of time, but at the time of its closing in the early '20's, the following teachers had taught there: Miss Callie Stinebough, Miss Maud Yett, Mrs. Ruth Kirchner, Mrs. Martha Roberts, Miss Emily Coleman, Miss Gladys Patrick, Miss Myrtle Sawyers, Mrs. Lottie Welch, Miss Margaret Coleman, Miss Kate Allen Brown, Miss Lenora Friday, Miss Elgia Dean, J. W. Crider, J. E. Greer, Terry Hill, Miss Hettie Stovall, Mrs. Minnie Rhodes, Miss Lorinne Craig, Miss Essie Coon, Miss Francis Clark, Miss Alma Crosby, Miss Lavine Lee, Miss Rachael Maxey, and Miss Sallie Blackburn.

The Bullhead school list includes Mr. Drennan, Mr. DeGaux, Mrs. Mollie Welch, Miss Tommy Brown, Miss Sallie Sweeten, Will Hunter, Ed Waddell, Mrs. Izora Thompson, Miss Grace Carper, Miss Clemy Cummins, Miss Hettie Stovall, Miss Nell Sweeten, and Miss Cassie Allison.

On the list of teachers for the Cedar Creek school were J. W. Crider, J. M. Reddick, Mrs. Mary Wentworth, Miss Susan Moore, Mrs. Minnie Rhodes, Mrs. Martha Roberts, Miss Ellen Arnold and B. J. Stewart.

The Dry Creek School list includes Mr. Redmond, Miss Annie Ramsey, J. M. Reddick, Miss Sallie McGowan, Miss Sallie Sweeten, Miss Jensie Sweeten, Electa Brown, Miss Lillian Patrick, Mrs. Martha Roberts, Louise Burris, Miss Lou Benedict, Miss Lilla Scott, Miss Mary Bell Carver, Mrs. Mary A. Lee, Doc Winans, and Mrs. Ruth Kirchner.

The Vance list includes Mr. Cole, Miss Annie Ramsey,

Mr. McIntosh, Mr. Smothers, Tom Milam, Severor Gray, Mrs. Cebe DeGaux, Miss Tommy Brown, J. M. Reddick, Miss Drennan Alexander, J. O. Banta, Mr. C. S. Greer, Mrs. Charlie Moore, Mrs. Ola Taylor, Ed Greer, Mrs. Sonora Johnson, Mr. Stephenson, Miss Dorcas Wilson, Miss Dora Nelson, Miss Louise Baylor, Mrs. Martha Roberts, Miss Glass, Miss Gladys O'Bryant, Mr. Jess Bates, Allan Stovall, Morris Patrick, Mrs. M. D. Taylor, Leslie Sansom, Miss Bessie Smith and Cleo Smith.

Plans were made early in 1920 to continue the construction of the railroad from Uvalde up the Nueces Canyon. On March 12, a committee of prominent Uvalde and Nueces Canyon men was appointed to raise \$160,000 bonus which the railroad incorporators wanted.

Colson Endsley and James F. Halpin, of San Antonio, chief stockholders in the company, were instrumental in getting the following people appointed on the committee: Rocksprings — M. O. Grooms and Len Clark; Barksdale — Ross Powers and J. W. Halpin; Montell — J. W. McFatter; Laguna — H. H. Deevees; Vance — A. N. Welch and George Field; Uvalde — Fred Horner and George Brashear.

Most of the ranchmen and businessmen of the area contributed to raise the amount of the bonus asked for by Mr. Endsley and Mr. Halpin.

On May 12, 1920, the charter for the proposed railroad was approved by the Railroad Commission at Austin, and the company was organized with a capital stock of \$50,000. Incorporators were: C. L. Endsley, J. F. Halpin, Will A. Morriss, W. A. Thompson, C. F. Turnin, John G. Ford, E. L. Finch, Jr., S. D. Norton, W. E. Eagel, all of San Antonio.

Editor Dollahite of the Edwards County *News*, proposed, on May 21, 1920, to establish a paper at Camp Wood as soon as the new town was begun.

This proposal was a part of his original plan when he moved his printing office from Barksdale to Rocksprings in 1919 to establish a branch office in Camp Wood. That had been his plan back in 1915 when talk of a railroad for the Canyon was resumed and later interrupted by the First World War.

In 1920, the Wagner family of San Antonio, stockholders in the Pioneer Flour Mills of that city, purchased several thousand acres of land on Cedar Creek. Among those selling their holdings to the Wagners were: D. W. Roberts, Fayette

Taylor, L. M. Pullen, G. C. Hamrick, Quincy Craig, Frank Kelley, and Lee Allison. In all, the Wagners bought about 22,000 acres of land at prices ranging from \$2.00 to \$25.00 per acre. A policy of leasing the land to stockmen was adopted, and numerous improvements were made on the various ranches by the new owners. Pumping plants to irrigate the farmlands were installed on most of the ranches. The ranch homes were repaired, remodeled, and in some cases, rebuilt. The Guenther family, founders of the Pioneer Flour Mills Company, later bought in with the Wagners, and that partnership continued for many years. A large rock house was built near the site of the old Coalson home, and that house was the stopping place for the vacationing parties that came out with the Wagners and the Guenthers from San Antonio, from time to time.

In June, 1920, plans were formulated for the building of a permanent Baptist Encampment at Leakey, Texas. Rev. S. M. York of Alamo, Texas, a leader in the Baptist Denomination in Southwest Texas at that time, was instrumental in getting the plans underway. A committee of prominent Baptist people in the Nueces and Frio Canyons was appointed to see about the selection of an encampment site, and about the purchase of the necessary land. J. H. Davis, of Rio Frio, father of Bob Davis, offered to give forty acres of land, outside the town of Leakey and fronting on the Frio River, for the encampment grounds. The committee decided to accept that offer, and work was soon begun in shaping up the project in time for an encampment in August of 1920. J. H. Erb of Rio Frio was placed in charge of the work. Liberal support for the project was given by the people of the Baptist churches of the area. The first encampment began on August 27, 1920. Dr. Groner, prominent Texas Baptist, and J. C. Hardy, president of Baylor College for Women, were the principal speakers. The first president of the Encampment Association was Bro. Andrews, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Uvalde. On July 2nd, 1920, the people of Leakey donated \$1500 for the initial work on the encampment.

The Texas Angora Goat Raisers Association (TAGRA) was organized in 1920. Bob Davis of Rio Frio was elected as its first president. The association was planned to be the official organ of the goat raisers in Texas, and was organized in order to permit the goat men of Texas to hold annual goat shows and sales. The organization that is the official

registry of registered goat breeders, the American Angora Goat Raisers Association, was organized in 1900.

Approximately ninety percent of the Angora goat business is centered in the Edwards Plateau Region, and the largest concentration of goats in the world is found in Edwards County. Rocksprings, Texas, is rightly called the goat capital of the world.

The Angora goat business started in America in 1849, when Dr. James Davis of Columbia, South Carolina, brought in some Angora goats from Turkey. Col. Richard Peters was the first breeder of Angora goats in the United States. William Landrum brought the first Angoras to the West Coast. The first Angoras were brought to Texas in 1858 by Col. W. W. Haupt of Hays County, Texas. J. D. Pepper was one of the earliest breeders in the Edwards County area. J. L. Gulley of Uvalde, another early breeder, was the founder of Gulley and Sons. In 1881, he drove flocks from Leon Springs, Texas, to the Canyon area.

B. M. Halbert of Sonora, Texas, is known as "The Billy King." Mrs. M. Armor, of Kingston, Arizona, president of the national organization in 1918-1919, is called "The Queen of the Angora Industry"; V. A. Brown, of Rocksprings, was one who helped to organize the sheep and goat raisers associations. Bob Davis was the president of the NAGRA from 1919-1927. U. S. Grant of Dallas, Oregon, was elected honorary vice-president for life. C. A. Pepper, of San Antonio, was president in 1939-1941. Fred Earwood of Sonora was president from 1929-1934. J. A. Ward of Sonora was president in 1946-1948. C. F. Briggs, Del Rio, Texas, was president from 1943-1944. Sam F. Cooper, Leakey, Texas, was president 1944-1945.

The Texas organization has twenty-seven directors, one honorary director for life, and nine directors elected each year to fill the terms of those whose terms expire. The association has an annual meeting in August which is a joint show and sale and coronation of the Angora Queen. The association has an official auctioneer for its sales each year. Nelson Johnson, Walter Britton, and Pete Gulley have all served in that capacity. Following is a list of past presidents of the Texas Angora Goat Raisers Association: Bob Davis, W. B. Patterson, J. L. Gulley, Frank Landrum, Eddie Robbins, M. D. Taylor, Sam Cooper, L. A. Clark, C. F. Briggs, Claud Pepper, W. S. Orr, W. H. Rawlings, Joe Brown Ross, H. R. Sites, J. B. Reagan, Brooks Sweeten, Claud Haby, and

Marvin Skaggs. Arthur Davis, Ralph Stewart, Pete Gulley, and Tom Smith have been the association's secretaries.

There have been three importations of Angora goats from South Africa, in 1886, 1893, and 1925. J. B. Evans sent six head of Angoras to America in 1886. C. P. Bailey imported two head of Cawood stock in 1893.

The first importation to America from Turkey was by Dr. Davis in 1849. In 1866, W. W. Chennery imported twenty head from Turkey, and in 1867, twenty head more. Israel Diehl imported 150 head in 1869, and E. T. Ichides 175 head in 1870. William Hall and John Harris brought in nine head in 1874, three of which were of high quality. An English captain, of Galveston, sold two head to William Parrish of San Antonio, which were of superior quality. John Harris later went to Turkey and brought back two bucks and ten does. In 1879, Col. Peters brought in three head of bucks. In 1880, the Turkish government forbade further importations.

The TAGRA held its first sale at the Patterson ranch near Rio Frio. The second sale was at Leakey, and the third at Bandera. The fourth sale was held at Uvalde, where two subsequent sales were held. Rocksprings had the fifth show and sale and three subsequent sales. Other sales have been held at Johnson City, Junction, Lampasas, Kerrville, Fredericksburg, and Camp Wood, most of which locations have had the sale and show two or more times.

All past presidents of TAGRA have been breeders of registered Angoras, except J. E. Robbins of Camp Wood, who has been an extensive operator in the Angora goat business for many years.

In 1920, the following people took the oath of office for the various offices of Real County: Ed Kelley, county judge; Math Casey, sheriff; J. W. Haynes, county clerk; A. G. Wells, commissioner, precinct No. 3.

In 1920, B. J. Stewart, son of B. A. Stewart, local Barksdale merchant, was superintendent of the Barksdale School. He was assisted by Gladys Patrick and Cebia Beck, intermediate and primary teachers.

In 1920, Rev. W. S. Garnet was pastor of the Barksdale Baptist Church. During the thirteen months of his pastorate, the Barksdale Church experienced considerable growth. Communities in the surrounding area also were affected by the ministry of Bro. Garnet. He preached frequently at the schoolhouses on Camp Wood Creek, Cedar Creek, and in the

Pulliam community. With the help of Uncle George Sewell, who was an able song leader, Bro. Garnett held revival meetings in the communities around Barksdale. As a result of those revivals, people in the various neighborhoods organized local Sunday Schools and church groups. Dan Roberts was the leading figure in church activities on Cedar Creek. Mr. Roberts was not only a talented singer, but a speaker of considerable ability.

In 1920, Dennis Pope lived on a place on Pulliam Creek near the old Buck Green place. He says that Mrs. Pope raised a good many chickens in those days and that the chickens always roosted at night in the trees around the house. Varmints and owls occasionally bothered the chickens on their roosts. One night Dennis heard a great commotion among the hens in a tree back of the house. He grabbed his old shotgun and stepped out to see if he could get a shot at the prowler. He was slipping up to the tree, clad only in his long-handled union suit, looking for the varmint in the tree, and just about the time that he got ready to shoot, a cold nose stuck itself into the back opening of his drawers. Dennis jumped and both barrels of the shotgun went off. Dennis adds that about half of Verdie's hens came falling out of the tree. In disgust, he turned to go back into the house, and saw his old coon hound slinking around the corner.

In 1920, the McFerran family lived on the Kruger place near Camp Wood Springs. The McFerrans had recently moved from the Ed Custer place on Miller Creek, where Mr. McFerran had died the year before. Luther, the only boy in the family, had just returned from service in World War I. Louvenia was a teacher in the Barksdale school, and Queenie had recently married Lee Wallace, Barksdale merchant. The Bill Reagan family, who vacated the Kruger place, moved to the Lacey place in Barksdale where they stayed one year. Then they moved to the Ed Custer house on the river below town. Mr. Reagan had leased a half-section of the old Nix pasture, where he kept his small flock of Angora goats. During the time that he had free from taking care of his goats, Mr. Reagan and his son Harvey hauled cedar and oak wood from the old Kirchner place to customers in Barksdale. Mrs. Reagan supplemented the family income by doing laundry work for families in the neighborhood.

The Reagan home was often the meeting place for the

young people of the vicinity. Play parties were a form of entertainment that was very popular at that time, and on Saturday nights the young folks would gather there to play Snap.

In 1920, three Pope Brothers, O. C., Archie, and Dennis, bought the mercantile business of Warren Puett and Sons, and operated the business in a partnership deal. Mr. O. C. Pope had bought the old Uzzell hotel and located his family there where the two younger children, Burney and Mabel, could be in school. O. C. had ranch interests on the head of Cedar Creek, where his two boys, Emmitt and Alec, stayed and tended their father's large flocks of goats.

Archie Pope lived in the old Whatley house south of the school building, and Dennis had his family on his ranch west of town.

On January 30, 1920, J. E. Pepper, prominent Angora goat breeder of the Rocksprings area, sold his Divide ranch to Perry Mayes at a price of \$9.00 per acre. 200 head of goats were included in the deal. Claud Pepper, a son of J. D. Pepper, moved to a ranch near San Antonio, which he had recently purchased.

In 1920, the old Dean Telephone Exchange was located in the Dean building on the west side of Main Street in Barksdale, and was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Newman. Mr. Newman had some years before married the widow of Dr. Fisher. The telephone company in 1920 belonged to W. R. Hooper of Uvalde. Mr. and Mrs. Theo Fisher helped to operate the exchange from 1919 to 1921.

Warren Puett bought the old Nix gin building in 1920, and opened up a feed and grocery business there. Ernest, one of the Puett boys, had recently married Nora Brown, and was in the ranching business.

In 1920, Theo Fisher and Otto Sanderlin had the Uvalde-Rocksprings mail contract. P. K. Hart, who had made the successful bid on the job some years before, had taken the contract too cheaply, and had lost all he had in trying to carry the mails. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Sanderlin also learned that they had taken the job for too little, so they let the contract go to their bondman, Mr. Harry Young of Rocksprings. Mr. Young carried the mail for some time, until he was able to get another party to take over the contract.

In 1920, Frank Casey lived on the old Alfred Nelson ranch north of Barksdale. His four children, Ernest, Charlie, George, and Frankie Lee, attended the school at Barksdale.

Mart Nelson remodeled the old Baldrige, Allen and Whatley building, and put in a garage in 1920. His family lived across the street in the old Ramsey house.

In 1920, A. P. Allison was county judge; Ed Custer, sheriff; Judge Friestman, county attorney; S. A. Hough, county clerk; C. E. Franks, tax assessor; Minnie Clark, treasurer; Frank Winans, surveyor; H. R. Perkins, commissioner, precinct No. 2; Tom Nelson, justice of the peace, precinct No. 2.

The \$400,000 road bond issue voted in May, 1919, was sold, and work began on the county roads. The specifications called for grading and putting a gravel top on Highway 55 from Barksdale to Rocksprings, as well as work on the Rocksprings-Sonora, and Rocksprings-Del Rio roads. Many horse-and-mule-drawn vehicles were first used to haul gravel for the topping, and later on, men with trucks were given the contract at a certain amount per load to haul the gravel. A tractor and bulldozer were purchased for the precinct No. 2, and timber was cleared for the right of way and a grade thrown up for the gravel topping. A number of the Barksdale people were employed on that project.

The organization proper of the town of Camp Wood was begun in 1921. The Uvalde-Northern railroad was finished on March 19, 1921. The greater part of the money to finance its building was put up by Harry Rogers of San Antonio. Mr. Rogers had secured options to many thousands of acres of the cedar-covered land in the area around Camp Wood, and had purchased outright other large acreages. A company known as the Uvalde Cedar Company was organized in 1921 to handle the business of cutting and marketing of the cedar timber. Mr. H. Sholter was the company's first president. The Lost Creek Brake was the first timberland to be opened for operations. A road was built from Camp Wood across the river west of town up the mountain and into the cedar country. Wagons drawn by horses and mules were used altogether at first to haul out the timber. A tent city was soon put up at the edge of the brake, and more than a hundred choppers began the work of chopping and hauling out the posts and other timbers. Each chopper was assigned to a strip of timber, and he was instructed to cut all the marketable timber in his trip down the strip. Choppers and haulers were paid on a percentage basis, the amount being based on the prevailing yard prices. A sawmill was installed at the cedar yard to trim the posts and shape them for the market.

Mr. T. Shockley was one of the first checkers to be employed at the yard, and it was his job to determine the price of each stick of timber as it was unloaded from the wagons, and to have it placed on the appropriate stack. Soon several acres of ground were covered with tall stacks of cedar posts, fence staves, blocking, telephone poles and other marketable pieces.

People flocked to the new town of Camp Wood. Barksdale became almost a ghost town. Several houses were moved to Camp Wood and other people from the Barksdale vicinity purchased lots in Camp Wood and built new homes on them.

W. A. Thompson, one of the promoters of the new railroad, purchased a large acreage around the railroad terminal, and laid off a townsite. Business houses were soon put up, among them being the Alamo Lumber Company, Graves Lumber Company, the Fitzgerald Restaurant and Hotel, the Uvalde Cedar Company Commissary, and numerous others.

A railroad depot and warehouse was built by the railroad company (according to plans drawn up by C. M. Breeding), and warehouses for shipping wool, mohair and other Canyon products were strung along the track. Stock pens and loading chutes were erected to provide shipping facilities for livestock people. Churches were organized, and a school building was put up on the location of the present C. R. Priddy store.

The Camp Wood Baptist Church was organized in 1921. Some of the charter members of the church were the Paul Northcutts, the Albert Rays, the J. W. Richardsons, the T. Shockleys, and the Perkins family. The organization meeting took place in the school building, and not long afterward a church building was erected on the block where the present elementary school building is located.

A water supply for the new town soon became a problem. S. H. Fish, recently moved in from Junction, made efforts to interest the townsite owners in a new waterwheel that he had patented, with which he proposed to furnish the city with an adequate water supply. His wheel was installed in the Camp Wood Spring Branch near that creek's juncture with the main Nueces, but its performance did not meet the expectations of the town authorities, so other proposals were looked into, and finally a pumping station was set up near the Camp Wood Spring, and a network of main pipes and

laterals were soon laid over the townsite. The waterworks later came into the hands of the Rob Grantlands, who improved and added to the system as the circumstances required. A concrete storage tank was built in the eastern part of the town, on an eminence to provide sufficient pressure in the homes and places of business.

The first school in Camp Wood was taught by Terry Hill and his wife, who were employed by the Board of Trustees of the Barksdale School District, the Camp Wood area still being a part of the Barksdale District. The census for 1921 revealed that sixty-seven scholastics were attending the Camp Wood School.

The first moving picture theatre in Camp Wood was put up and operated by Floyd Hamrick, a native of the Barksdale community. The theatre building was also used as the town dance hall. Music for those affairs was usually furnished by local talent. Ira Shelley and Fred Weaver were among the best performers on the fiddle, and guitar-pickers were to be found in abundance.

Other kinds of entertainment were provided by the traveling shows that frequently came through the country. Rodeo performances were occasionally staged for the public, and ball teams were organized to provide other entertainment.

Dr. Norton was the first doctor to come to Camp Wood and establish a practice. His home was the old Tom Sutherland ranch house below Camp Wood, and his office was located west of Main Street. The Rob Grantlands had a little drugstore nearby.

The town soon established a post office. Jim Gray was the city's first postmaster. Mail service from Uvalde continued to be provided for by motor vehicles, although considerable freight and express were hauled over the new railroad. The post office building was located one block west off Main Street, near the Alamo Lumber Company buildings.

In 1921, Virge Miller owned a little store at 14 Mile Well on the Uvalde-Rocksprings road. Several stores of the kind were located up and down the road, and all of them did a considerable business providing for the needs of the traveler. On January 21, 1921, Uncle Billy Wood, an old-time peddler between Uvalde and Barksdale, was spending the night with Mr. Miller at his store. During the night, the building caught fire, and before either of the two occupants knew what was happening, it had burned to the

ground. Mr. Miller died in the burning building, and Mr. Wood barely escaped.

In 1921, Chris Chant, son of George Chant of the Barksdale vicinity, was turkey hunting in the cedar brake near Barksdale with a companion from Camp Wood. Young Chant had climbed a tree and was using a turkey call to lure to his hiding place a flock of turkeys. Chant's partner was hunting some distance away, and was attracted by the sound of the turkey call. He cautiously approached the spot from whence the calls had come, and saw what he thought to be a turkey on the limb of a nearby tree. He fired at the object, and was horrified to learn that he had mistaken Chris for a turkey, and had mortally wounded his hunting companion. He quickly summoned help, and the victim was carried out of the brake on a packsaddle improvised by locking the hands and arms of two carriers. Chant was rushed to the nearest town where a doctor was secured, but Chant died from the wound a short time later. The inquest revealed that the death was due to accidental causes, and the man was absolved from any blame.

Young Chant's body was laid to rest in the Barksdale cemetery, where a host of friends and relatives gathered to mourn the passing of their young friend and neighbor. The local Church of Christ minister had charge of the funeral services.

Another sad accident occurred in Barksdale in 1921. The Otto Sanderlin family had recently moved away from Barksdale where Mr. Sanderlin ran a freight line from Uvalde to Barksdale. Gaston, the only boy in the family, was visiting in Barksdale in the home of Warren Hatley. One Sunday morning, the Sanderlin boy and Mr. Hatley's youngest boy, Gaston, were under the hill below Barksdale, gathering the scattered pecans under the trees there. The Sanderlin boy climbed one of the big trees to knock down more pecans, and when about halfway to the top, his foot slipped and he fell about thirty feet to the ground. His neck was broken by the fall. A large crowd of people quickly gathered at the site, and his people in Uvalde were notified of the tragic accident. His body was carried to the Warren Puett house to await the arrival of the family and the funeral arrangements. Gaston was laid to rest the next day in the local cemetery, in the presence of a host of friends who had gathered there.

Excitement came to the Nueces Canyon in 1921 when

stories were told of the discovery of gold on the Adams ranch on Montell Creek. Rich samples were displayed in the Canyon towns, and many people were convinced that a rich strike had been made. Mr. Lee Wallace, Barksdale merchant, closed a deal to buy outright the ranch property where the strike had been made. Later efforts to locate the vein from which the gold had come proved futile, and it was discovered that the sands of the creek had been salted with gold ore and nuggets as a promotion scheme. Not to be outdone, Mr. Wallace went on to operate the property as a ranching project, and realized a considerable profit from the business for many years.

E. D. (Doc) Pannell operated a store in Vance in 1921, and was postmaster of the Vance post office. Z. T. Vernor was a Vance merchant in 1921.

Bonds were voted in the Vance School District in 1921, and a two-room native rock school building was put up. The Vance District had recently been enlarged by an act of the state legislature, through the efforts of B. J. Stewart, a local boy, elected to the Texas house in 1921. The same year, Vance people voted to create an independent school district, and plans were made to enlarge the local school program. Under the leadership of the Board of Trustees, J. E. Shackelford, Walter Lockhart, Ben Smith, Ammon Connell, and Vol Casey, the Bullhead school was consolidated with Vance, and the children in that neighborhood were brought in each day on the school bus. Lewis Lackey was the first driver of the bus. J. E. Johnson and his wife were employed to teach the school, and the old school building was remodeled to provide a teacherage for the two people.

In the Hackberry community, the local store was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Alec Carter, Mrs. Carter also serving as the local postmistress. The school building was located near the store and post office.

In 1921, Rocksprings organized a cemetery association to provide an organization for the maintenance and financing of the local cemetery. Mrs. Walker Dismukes was the first president of the association, to be succeeded by Mrs. S. S. Shanklin. Eighty-one hundredths of an acre of land from the cemetery was sold to Juan Vela in 1921, to provide a burial ground for the Latin-American population of Rocksprings.

In March, 1921, a meeting of the executive board of the Alto Frio Baptist Encampment was held in Sabinal, to de-

termine the construction of buildings and other accommodations on the encampment grounds.

In 1921, John D. Sutherland was operating a mercantile business in Montell, which he had recently purchased from Jack Patterson. The Sutherlands were living in the old Patterson house on the river below Montell. A. G. Beecroft was the local postmaster, and his office was in his store building located on the highway in front of the Beecroft home. The local telephone exchange was housed with the Doc Coleman family, who were operators of the local switchboard.

The town of Camp Wood continued to grow in 1922. Other places of business were being established, and the population of the town was growing by leaps and bounds. Several families from the Hackberry community moved into Camp Wood and purchased homes. The Gildart family from near Austin moved in, and later on was connected with the Uvalde Cedar Company. The McDonald family moved in, and put up a grocery store across the street from the Grantland drugstore.

Henry Reavis had leased the Card Springs ranch in 1922, and was running a string of mutton goats in that country. Frank Reagan and Henry Kite had a goat camp across the hills at Klondike Springs on Camp Wood Creek. Part of the winter of 1922, the writer spent in that camp trapping the ringtails and raccoons that were bringing a high price on the fur market at that time. Bill Wall and his mother were ranching on the river below the Reagan goat camp.

In 1922, W. E. Hatley sold his garage business in Barksdale to his son Forrest, who later sold an interest to Robert Dorn, grandson of Mrs. Sallie Beck. Robert and Forrest were both young married men, Forrest having a short time before married Jewel Pope, daughter of D. W. Pope; Robert was married to Louise Merck, granddaughter of Mrs. J. D. Lacey of Barksdale.

Under the new partnership, the garage business boomed. A Mr. Harris, an experienced auto mechanic, was employed to do work on cars brought to the garage for repair. Mr. Harris had a sister named Lottie who was principal of the Barksdale School in 1919-1920, the year the writer graduated from high school.

In 1922, Louise Burris taught the Dry Creek School. She and her father lived in a little house near the school building. The Dry Creek schoolhouse had been built by donations from people in the Canyon. For many years, a placard

bearing the names of the contributors and the amount of their contribution hung on the front wall of the building.

Miss Emily Coleman, local Montell girl, taught the Montell School in 1922. During those years, the enrollment of the school was probably at its peak. The school had a very good basketball team, and took part in district competition several years. Among those who played on the team were Keith and Virgil Sutherland and Dub McFatter. The Jeffers and Luce boys also were members of the team about that same period.

In 1922, the Raney School became a part of the Barksdale School District. By order of the Commissioners Court, the building was sold to the highest bidder, and the school furniture moved to the Barksdale School.

In the November, 1922, county elections, Ed Custer was returned to the office of sheriff. S. A. Hough was re-elected as county clerk, and Judge Friestman as county attorney. A. P. Allison was elected as county judge; J. C. Clark, assessor; Minnie Clark, treasurer; L. V. McCaleb, surveyor; H. R. Perkins, commissioner, precinct No. 2; and Tom Nelson, justice of the peace, precinct No. 2. Joe Craig was elected to the office of constable of precinct 2.

In 1922, the Cedar Creek School District was consolidated with the Barksdale District, and the pupils were transported to Barksdale on a school bus. Douglas Roberts and Ben Moeglin were among the first drivers of the bus.

In 1922, the Camp Wood Creek School was consolidated with the Camp Wood town school. Children were brought in on a school bus.

The John Lanman family moved into the Canyon in the early 'twenties, and bought a ranch across Pulliam Creek near the old L. M. Pullen place. Uncle Bill Lanman and Miss Ann Lanman moved in with the John Lanman family. The John Lanman girls, Lucille and Louise, were placed in the Barksdale School. The two young ladies were talented musicians and contributed much to the local school and to the community with their performances on the violin and the piano. The girls were also vocalists of considerable talent.

In 1922, the Barksdale School District voted a bond issue to finance a building program for its rapidly expanding school program. A \$12,000 bond issue was voted and sold, and a local contractor was low bidder on the work of remodeling the old school building. O. C. Henderson, secretary

of the Barksdale Board of Trustees, furnished much of the leadership in carrying out the building program. During the months in which the work on the building was in progress, various buildings in the town were used to carry on the school.

Prof. Bernard was superintendent of the Barksdale School during the 1922-23 school term.

Tom Nelson operated a barber shop on the old Sam Grantland corner in 1922. Tom, several years before, had married Callie Sawyers, and was not only the local barber, but held the office of justice of the peace and was a member of the local school board.

The Alfred Nelson family sold their Barksdale property and bought a small place on the river west of Barksdale. The property acquired by the Nelsons was the old homeplace of C. H. Kirchner, which more recently had been under the ownership of the Newell family, and still later, of Jim Brown of the Divide.

Rocksprings enlarged the public schoolgrounds by the purchase of some acreage from A. W. Owens and wife, on March 13, 1922.

Real County officers in 1922 were Ed Kelly, judge; Math Casey, sheriff; Joe Haynes, clerk; T. A. Godbold, assessor; Ora E. Tom, treasurer; A. G. Wells, commissioner, precinct No. 3.

In 1923, the schoolgrounds of the Rocksprings School were further enlarged by the purchase of seven-tenths acres of land from Lon Smart.

On May 25, 1923, the Rocksprings Common School District became an Independent District by an act of the Texas State Legislature. The first trustees of the Independent District were Mark Bean, president; J. N. Whitworth, secretary; and T. C. Hampton. On September 13, 1923, J. C. Clark was employed as tax assessor. The value of the real property of the district at that time was \$1,233,962, and the personal property was \$1,092,984.

H. B. Griffith was hired as superintendent of the new Independent District, and Claud Gilmer was elected principal.

An election was held on June 29, 1923, to issue a \$15,000 bond to construct and equip a second story to the existing school building. McCreary and Schott of Kerrville were awarded the contract for \$29,500.

In 1923, Rev. C. W. Sawyers was called as pastor of the

four Nueces Canyon Baptist churches; Camp Wood, Barksdale, Vance, and Hackberry. The parsonage building at Vance was completed, and the pastor and his family made their home there. Bro. Sawyers' family consisted of three members, besides himself: his wife and two girls, Betty and Jo B. The girls entered the Vance School in September of 1923.

The writer, who finished Rusk Junior College in the summer of 1923, was employed to teach the Dry Creek School for the school year of 1923-24. At that time, a good many families lived in the Dry Creek community: Ammon Connell, Joe Connell, Will Whittley, Lillie Manship, Bob Talley, Luther Brown, Marion Bennett, Mrs. J. M. Blackman, Clarence Connell and Vol Casey.

The family of W. A. Stewart had recently moved to the Harrington place on the Nueces, but the Stewart boys attended the school in Barksdale. About fifteen pupils were enrolled in the Dry Creek School. The writer boarded with the Marion Bennett family, who lived on the old Joe Roberts place about two miles west of the schoolhouse.

The Bennett family was a family of musicians. Uncle Jack Bennett was one of the best of the old-time fiddlers. His sons, Marion, Buck, and John, were all good fiddlers and guitar-pickers. The Weed family also had a number of good musicians.

It was in the Bennett home that the writer became interested in learning to play the violin and to pick the guitar. Before the school term was over, he became fairly proficient on both instruments.

In 1923, one of the highest and most destructive floods in the history of the Nueces Canyon came. The river rose to a height of forty feet near the old Ira Wheat ranch, and new records were set at Barksdale. The old Nix house was flooded, and the fence washed away at the Stovall place. The Vance community was flooded when the Hackberry and Bullhead prongs of the Nueces poured their floodwaters together at their juncture below Vance. People of the town fled to Bullhead Mountain, where they stayed until the flooded streams returned to their banks. Ranchmen reported considerable livestock losses in the river bottoms, and many weeks passed before all the torn-down fences were replaced or repaired.

The remodeled school building was finished in 1923 in Barksdale, in time for the September opening of the school. The new building of native stone contained an added class-

room and an auditorium in the second story. Four teachers were employed for the 1923-24 term of school. J. C. Smith was elected superintendent, and Ed Greer became the school's principal. Gladys Patrick and Lula Stovall were employed as intermediate and primary teachers. The school opened with a considerable increase in enrollment. Many of the former Camp Wood Creek scholastics entered the school at Barksdale. Cedar Creek was transporting her entire scholastic population to Barksdale, and the Raney School pupils had recently been transferred into the district.

The first real interest in organized athletics in the Barksdale School began in the 1923-24 school year, when an eleven-man football team was organized under the leadership of the new superintendent, Mr. Smith. Some of the boys who played on the Barksdale team were Guy and Carl Hutcherson, Oswald and Alvin Perkins, Rogers Stovall, Lewis and Tots Pope, Carl and George Shockley, and a number of other players.

The 1923 season was a successful one for the Barksdale team. It suffered one defeat from the more powerful Rocksprings eleven. However, it won most of the games played during the season. Perhaps the most interesting game of the year was the encounter with Eagle Pass, in which the Barksdale boys eked out a hard-won victory with a touchdown in the final minutes of the last quarter.

Following the victory over the Eagle Pass team, the Barksdale team and fans made a trip into Piedras Negras in Old Mexico. The return trip to Barksdale was started in a heavy downpour of rain late in the afternoon. The writer, who had volunteered to carry some of the players from Barksdale to the game, started out from Eagle Pass with his load, and got stuck in the mud a few miles from town. His party spent the night on the road. The next day, the car was driven out of the mudhole, and the party proceeded on its way. Not more than a mile or two from the spot where they had spent the night, they ran into dry ground, and the balance of the trip was made without further event.

In 1923, Jay Whitecotton put up Montell's third store. The firm was a general mercantile business, and was located on Highway 55 below Montell on the bank of Montell Creek.

In 1923, Leslie Gilkerson was the superintendent of the Camp Wood School. Alice Garnet was his assistant. There were not more than thirty or thirty-five pupils in the school

at that time. The school was still being taught in the two-room frame building on Main Street.

B. J. Stewart taught the Hackberry School in 1923-24.

On June 22, 1923, Buster Weed, nephew to Marion Bennett of Dry Creek, was shot accidentally by a .22 rifle. The wound, although painful, was not serious, and the young man soon recovered.

In 1923, O. C. Pope was ranching on the old Chant place on the head of Cedar Creek. He also had the Quincy Craig and Dan Taylor places under lease. The land had all gone under the ownership of the Wagner family of San Antonio, and Mr. Wagner was making extensive improvements on his ranches for the benefit of his tenants. On the Chant place, he built a new frame house, remodeled the old log house, and built new goat sheds and fences on the ranch. Mr. Pope put his two sons, Emmitt and Alec, with their families on the Chant ranch. In the 1923 rise, Mr. Pope lost more than a thousand head of his goats in the high water. In telling the story of his loss at Barksdale, he related that the only goats he found alive the next morning were two or three old nannies stranded on a big rock in the middle of the stream. He said that he was so disgusted with the whole business that he waded out and kicked the old nannies off the rock into the stream.

The Barksdale School faculty was re-elected for the school year 1924-25. The football team continued to win victories from the neighboring schools. A Mr. Gilkerson was elected to teach the Hackberry School. The Vance School Board voted to expand its school program by putting on an additional teacher and offering tenth-grade work in the high school. Prof. J. D. Johnson was re-elected principal, and his wife was elected as primary teacher. The writer was employed to teach the four middle grades and to drive the school bus from Bullhead into Vance. The end of the bus line was the Henry Whittley place on the head of the river. It was there that the writer secured a place to room and board. He had just recently purchased his first automobile, a brand-new Model T touring car.

The new Camp Wood School employed a Mr. Wood as its superintendent, and Jeff Bishop was hired to drive the Camp Wood Creek school bus.

1924 was a good year for the cedar business in Camp Wood. About 1400 carloads of cedar posts were shipped out of the west cedar brake that year. Mr. Sholter, the manager

for the Uvalde Cedar Company, put out a call for more trucks and choppers, in order to meet the heavy demand for cedar timber. He promised truckers \$9.00 to \$12.00 per day, and choppers from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per day. At least 100 more choppers were needed in the Lost Creek cedar brake.

A general rise in business conditions over the country was underway in 1924. Ranchmen were recovering from the slump of the early 'twenties, and stockmen over the Canyon were generally prosperous. Mohair was commanding a good price, and goat and sheep prices were on an upward trend. The Reid Brothers, Sim and Tom, ran several thousand goats on the J.W.J. ranch east of Camp Wood. These men were also breeders of registered Angora stock goats. The long hair from one of their fine billies brought \$24.00 a pound in 1924 on the Boston market. W. B. Kirchner was still in the business of raising registered goats, but on a more limited scale than his operations at the turn of the century. Mr. Kirchner, in one of his pensive moods, penned the following lines, which to some extent reflected his love for the Canyon and its hills.

Talk not to Me of Cuba land
Or Hawaii's sunny slope,
Give me the Nueces rocky hills,
And its gamboling sheep and goats.

Considerable trading in goats, sheep and ranch leases was going on all over the county. Lemmie Field leased his father's seven-section ranch on Pulliam Creek, and bought Mr. Field's goats in the deal. Walter Field was running 2000 head of Angoras on his Pulliam ranch and the Tom Ralston place on Hackberry, which Walter had under lease.

In the Hackberry country, Alfred Welch, Jerry Burleson, and Leonard Welch were buying ranches at new high prices. Bunyon Perry had the ten-section Fisher ranch under lease, and E. D. Pannell had his father's place stocked with sheep, goats, and cattle. Oscar Lackey, on the old Sanford place, was making money in the goat business, and was breeding registered Angoras for sale. One of his finest stud billies, "Oily Joe," was gaining a reputation as a sire of fine woolled goats.

In the Camp Wood area, Eddie Robbins was one of the big operators. Ernest Puett and Emmitt Pope also ran large herds in that vicinity.

Cedar Creek had become a land of tenant ranchers. Dan Roberts was perhaps the last old-timer in that section. The others had sold out and moved to other places.

Several good performances were given during the school year 1924 by the Barksdale High School students and faculty. The most interesting play of them all, perhaps, was "The Arizona Cowboy," presented on April 4, 1924, before a very large audience. The cast included the following players: Prof. J. E. Greer, Byron Roberts, Rogers Stovall, Roger Rhodes, Warren Hatley, Oswald Perkins, Raymond Taylor, Thelma Sweeten, Mattie Allison, Lula Taylor, Hallie Perkins, and Annie Pope.

"The Commercial Shows" came to Camp Wood on May 30, 1924. Included among its acts was a boxing competition — local talent competing with the show people. On the first night, Virgil Sutherland won over Charlie Mason in a three-round bout. In the second battle, Carl Hutcherson was knocked out by Kid Woop in the last of the second round. Earl Haygood then took on the winner, and knocked The Kid down five times, and out of the ring twice. Earl finally knocked him down, and the referee, being able to count only to 100, was forced to stop counting and give the match to Haygood.

On July 4, 1924, Brother Dan Matthews, early Canyon Baptist preacher, circuit rider, and first pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church, died at Sabinal just nine days before a special honor was to be given him at Alto Frio Baptist Encampment. Bro. Matthew preached for many years in the various churches over Edwards County. He raised a big family, and one son, Joe, became a Baptist preacher and followed in the footsteps of his father for many years. One of his daughters married B. G. Holloway, a Baptist preacher.

On October 7, 1924, County Judge A. P. Allison called an election to decide whether Rocksprings should be incorporated. The election carried and the first council meeting was held on October 7, 1924. J. N. Lockley was mayor, and the councilmen were J. L. Ballantyne, W. T. Day, Herman Fleischer, Dr. J. E. Rogers, and A. E. Buswell. These were dollar-a-year men. Page Carson was employed as marshal; H. B. Griffith as city attorney; and Milton Gilmer as city clerk.

The Camp Wood School District voted a \$17,000 bond issue in 1924 to finance the building of a native stone school building. The building was completed in 1925, and is the

present grammar school building of the Nueces Canyon Consolidated Independent School District.

The Camp Wood School Board employed Mr. M. R. Wood as the new superintendent of schools, E. Dotson as principal and bus driver, and Myrtle Young and Alice Garnett as intermediate and primary teachers.

In 1924, the voters of Edwards County elected a new man to the office of county judge. Claud Gilmer, son of Street Gilmer, who was owner of the Rocksprings Telephone Company, ran for the office and was elected by a big majority of the votes cast. Claud had recently served as the principal of the Rocksprings School under Mr. H. B. Griffith. Mr. Friestman was elected for county attorney on the ticket, along with S. A. Hough as clerk; Ed Custer, sheriff; Frank Winans, assessor; Minnie Clark, treasurer; H. R. Perkins, commissioner, precinct No. 2; Allen Sawyers, justice of the peace; and Tom Nelson, constable.

In Real County, the voters returned all the county officers to their places except the county judge and county clerk. J. H. Youngblood was elected as county judge and George Field as county clerk.

In 1924, work was begun on the part of Highway 41 that runs through Real County.

Contracts were let for graveling unfinished parts of Highway 55 between Barksdale and Rocksprings. J. C. Pope received the contract to top four miles of the road, for a price of \$2275.

In 1924, the Vance School was at its peak enrollment. About eighty pupils attended the school that year, and three teachers were employed. A basketball team was organized of the high school boys, and competition with neighboring school teams was very keen. Several games were played with the Camp Wood team that year, and the squad went to Devine, Texas, to take part in the district playoff. Among those playing on the team were J. B. Perry, Ray Burleson, Roland Blair, Ewell Greer, Melvin O'Bryant and Ben Amos Eppler.

In 1924, John Connell ranched on the old Dan Taylor place on Cedar Creek. On account of the difficulty of getting his children to school in Barksdale from his ranch, Mr. Connell bought the Joe Powers lots and built a modern home for his family.

The churches of Camp Wood had made considerable progress by the year 1924. The Camp Wood Baptist Church

held a revival meeting under the direction of evangelist R. E. Day, and gospel singer Johnny Cohen.

Several ranch deals were made in the Canyon area in 1924. One of the largest deals was the Spring Creek ranch of W. B. Kirchner, bought by Mamie Powers. In the trade, Mr. Kirchner received an 800-acre tract on the river west of Camp Wood. Mrs. Powers bought the old Oatman house in Barksdale and had it moved to the ranch. She also built a two-story frame dwelling near the site of Camp Wood Springs.

Neal Jernigan added to his ranch holdings on the head of Cedar Creek, by the purchase of another ranch. He also bought the O. C. Pope ranch, two miles north of Barksdale, where he moved his family to put his children in school.

On November 28, 1924, the Atterbury Brothers Circus brought their animal show to Montell. The circus boasted a 9000-pound, ten-foot tall elephant that was called Diamond. On the Friday night following the evening performance, the elephant escaped. He was trailed down the road a considerable distance and was finally found on top of Round Mountain. A later report by a party of people traveling from Uvalde to Camp Wood revealed that the group encountered the elephant in the road. It had become frightened by the car, and left the road at that point. The searching party was unable to get the elephant off the mountain that night because of the darkness, so members of the circus group sat up all night to make sure that the elephant didn't escape. The next day, the elephant was brought down and the circus continued on its way to the next town.

Russell Vernor and Winnie Webb were married in August of 1924. Russell was the son of Z. T. Vernor, Vance merchant, and Miss Webb was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lon Webb.

In 1924, the Independent Telephone Company of Montell sold its holdings to W. R. Hooper of Uvalde, and the business was incorporated with the latter's company, with its exchange at Camp Wood.

In 1925, H. R. Perkins, Edwards County Commissioner of precinct No. 2, bought the five-section ranch of Dan Taylor from John Connell. The ranch was located on the head of Cedar Creek on the edge of the Divide between the main and west Nueces.

O. C. Pope quit the ranch business in 1925, and turned his livestock over to his two sons, Emmitt and Alec. One

day, O. C. was complaining of being sick, and Alf Nelson said it was from eating ringtails. O. C. figured that if you could get \$2.50 for the ringtail hide and eat the meat, it was a good way to get by and save something. O. C. and the boys had killed some squirrels while on a hunt, and had them in a frying pan, good and brown. A ringtail fur or two were lying about, and when Tom Nelson came to camp they told him that it was ringtail meat. As the others were eating it, he thought he could stand what they could, and kept on eating, mentioning once in a while that it tasted more like squirrel meat than he thought a ringtail would taste. He didn't object to it at all. Pope said he and his boys trapped forty ringtails in three nights, all of which brought \$2.50 each.

Leaders in the Angora business in the Edwards and Real County area, in the interest of improving the quality of the flocks, conceived the idea of importing fresh blood from South Africa, where the ranchmen were making considerable progress in breeding up their herds. Bob Davis, prominent goat man of the Frio Country, was the leading figure in making the deal with the people in South Africa for the importation of a number of their best quality stud bucks. 177 head were brought in. Cawood, Manley, and Hobson were men who brought in shipments of billies from that country. Three of the leading goat raisers of South Africa came over with the shipment. The sale was held at Camp Wood, in connection with a big barbecue and rodeo. Colonel McGinnis, well-known auctioneer, was employed to conduct the sale. The entire lot was sold for a total price of \$34,000, the highest price paid for one single animal being \$1100, paid by B. M. Halbert of Sonora, for an exceptionally fine buck.

In 1925, Jim Pope owned the old Nix place in Barksdale, and operated the town waterworks. Mr. Pope and his sons were also extensively connected with the bee business. Mr. Pope owned tools and equipment for making his own beehives, and had several apiaries located in various places in the Canyon. Millard Thompson, who was a stepson of Mr. Pope's, also had several apiaries, and produced many thousands of pounds of honey each season. The best quality honey was obtained from the quajilla brush which abounded in the area at the mouth of the Canyon.

In 1925, Robert Dorn sold his interest in the Hatley and Dorn garage in Barksdale to F. E. Howerton. Mr. Howerton

sold his ranch to R. D. Keeney.

Bud Howerton bought the old C. S. Greer store from B. A. Stewart.

In 1925, Frank Reagan and Charlie Baxter, men from the Barksdale community, were working on a fence-building contract on a ranch near Sonora. Some differences arose between the two men, and one day Mr. Reagan stopped the Baxter car as it was going into town. Mr. Baxter and Mr. Reagan were both armed with rifles. A blaze of gunfire ensued, and when the smoke had cleared away, both men were lying dead; Reagan with a bullet wound in his forehead and Baxter mortally hurt with several wounds in his body. The sheriff of Sutton County was called to the scene of the tragedy and an inquest was held. The verdict stated that the two men died from gunshot wounds. The two bodies were laid to rest in the burial plots of the men's respective families in Barksdale.

The Lacey boys, Leonard, Leo, and Dee, sons of Mrs. J. D. Lacey of Barksdale, were contractors for fence-building jobs and construction of rock tanks over a wide area around Barksdale. The writer helped these men on several contracts in the period between 1924 to 1926, some in the Brackettville country and some in the Sonora country. In one sixty-day period, eleven miles of fence were built on the Peterson ranch between Laguna and Brackettville, and another job called for the fencing of a right of way for the Sonora-Junction highway.

On August 14, 1925, T. T. Martin, a Baptist evangelist from Blue Ridge, Mississippi, came to Barksdale at the invitation of C. W. Sawyers, pastor of the Barksdale Baptist Church, to hold a ten-day meeting. Large crowds came every night to hear the evangelist preach. Many people were united with the church, and the religious fervor of all the Canyon churches reached a new high.

In 1925, considerable deposits of bat guana were found in a cave on the J. S. Whitecotton ranch below Montell. Many tons of fertilizer were taken from the cave in the subsequent years, and sold on the market for a good price.

Trustees for the Rocksprings Independent School District in 1924 were Mark Bean, president; J. N. Whitworth, Sr., J. A. Henry, T. C. Hampton, J. H. Dismukes, G. C. Fleischer, and Mrs. R. H. Earwood. In 1925, Lon R. Smart was elected president, and Will Eaton, M. O. Grooms, and Lyda Cloudt were new members on the Board. O. W.

Peters was elected superintendent on May 7, 1925, and Seth Young was elected principal.

In 1925, the town of Rocksprings, in order to promote its cultural growth, invited a Chautauqua company, a high-class traveling show, to come to Rocksprings. The programs were given in the high school auditorium, and the company continued to make annual visits to Rocksprings for many years.

The Rocksprings School set up its first school bus transportation system in 1925. Two Ford chassis were purchased and equipped with bus bodies. These busses were used on the Kerrville and Del Rio roads.

The Rev. J. M. Hale was pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church in 1925.

The Barksdale P.T.A., under the leadership of its president, Mrs. S. A. Raney, was a very active organization in 1925. A number of projects for the improvement of the school were undertaken and completed that year. One of the first improvements made was the purchase of some lots between the school property and the Baptist Church. The old jailhouse building on the northeast corner of the block was torn down and removed. A piano was purchased for the school auditorium, and a Delco system was installed to furnish electric lights. Improvements were made on the auditorium and stage, and equipment for the four classrooms was purchased.

The writer was re-elected to teach the intermediate grades in the Vance School for the year 1925-26. Prof. J. D. Johnson and his wife were hired to teach the high school and primary grades, respectively.

Bro. Sawyers became dissatisfied with the public school in Vance that year, and hired a private teacher to instruct his two daughters, Betty and Joe B. Buck Bishop of Carta Valley sent his two boys, J. C. and Ned, to the school, and Jerry Burleson, Vance ranchman, sent his son Forace there. Miss Erhardt taught the school.

In 1925, Dr. Eads moved his practice to the new town of Camp Wood. He purchased the drug business of the R. S. Grantlands, and put up a new building on Main Street, south of the telephone exchange. Dr. Eads had his office in the back part of the store building. Mrs. F. E. Howerton was placed in charge of the drugstore in Barksdale. The Howertons had just recently put up a new home in Barksdale, east of the store building.

In 1925, the First State Bank of Barksdale was moved to Camp Wood. The building was put up on Main Street, and the Powers family continued to be the main stockholders. Ross Powers was cashier in the bank.

In 1925, O. C. Pope was deputy for Edwards County sheriff, Ed Custer. He and Mrs. Pope made their home in Rocksprings.

Teachers re-elected in the Barksdale School in 1925 were J. C. Smith, superintendent, J. E. Greer, principal.

Miss Ida Sweeten became postmistress for the Barksdale post office in 1915. Elvie Moore had the contract to drive the Barksdale-Rocksprings mail line. Gus Haynes was the Vance carrier, and had been carrying the mail on the Barksdale-Hackberry route for a number of years.

E. D. Pannell continued as postmaster at Vance, and Mrs. Carter at Hackberry.

In 1925, S. H. Fish of the Bullhead community bought a ranch near Kerrville. He sold his 160-acre ranch on Bullhead to the writer and his brother, Rogers. The two got possession and moved on the place in 1926. The place contained several acres of cultivated land, irrigated by the waters of a small stream that ran through it. There were five or six hundred pecan trees of various sizes on the river bottoms. A body of level, uncleared land lay along the west bank of Flynn Creek, and was so situated that a gravity ditch could be built from the head of the stream down to the piece of land. The Stovall brothers decided to clear the land and ditch the water to it. This was done in the fall and winter of 1926. The stumps were pulled with a mechanical stump puller, a horse-drawn device that wound a steel cable around a drum as the team pulled the lever around in a circle.

Fifteen acres of fruit trees and papershell pecan trees were set out on the place. These included two acres in pears, one acre in grapes, one acre in figs, one-half acre of apples, one acre of plums and apricots; the balance of the fifteen acres were planted to peaches and pecans.

300 native pecan trees were topworked to be budded to improved varieties. Pure sugar cane stalks were bought from a neighbor, and two acres of ribbon cane were planted for syrup making. Several acres of ribbon cane were planted for molasses making. Two syrup mills were installed near the fields, and a ten-foot cooking vat was built over a rock furnace near the mills. The second year's cane crop yielded 1200 gallons of sorghum and ribbon cane syrup.

With the exception of H. B. Griffith, who was elected to the office of county attorney, all the Edwards County officers were returned to their places for another two-year term except Ed Custer, who declined to run for another term for the office of sheriff. Ed Young was elected to that office. O. C. Henderson became the constable for the Barksdale community in precinct No. 2.

A number of tragedies involving Canyon people occurred in 1926. Ben Amos Eppler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Zac Eppler, formerly of the Vance community, was thrown from a horse and killed while working for his father on the Henderson ranch near Ozona.

Fred Custer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Custer, was shot and killed in 1927 while working in Arizona. His body was brought back to Barksdale and laid to rest in the family burial plot.

Mrs. Lillie Manship became postmistress of the Barksdale post office in 1926.

J. E. Greer was elected superintendent of the Barksdale School in 1926. George Shockley was elected principal, and Mina Ayer, intermediate teacher. All teachers were re-elected at Vance.

Ed Kelly was re-elected as county judge of Real County in 1926. Math Casey was returned to the office of sheriff after a close race with Joe Haynes, who later contested the election but lost the suit. George Field became county clerk, Ora E. Tom was elected to the office of treasurer, and Albert Wells was returned to office as commissioner of precinct No. 3.

A \$5,000 road bond issue was defeated by Real County voters in an election held in May, 1926.

During the 1926 school term at Barksdale, a program was given in the high school auditorium by the local PTA. An old-time fiddling contest was arranged as part of the program. The writer was one of the three entries who participated in the contest. Allen Sawyers and Tom Nelson were the other two contestants. By some lucky turn, the writer was awarded first prize.

On October 2, 1926, Dick Perkins, county commissioner of precinct 2, was married to Lillie Manship, recently appointed postmistress of Barksdale. Both of the people were very active in the Baptist Church work in Barksdale. Mr. Perkins, in addition to carrying on the duties of his com-

missioner's office, spent considerable time at his ranch on Cedar Creek.

In 1926, Haze Taylor sold his ranch on New Creek to Harper Talley, and bought section thirty-eight, four or five miles down the creek, at the mouth of the canyon. He bought the old Nix gin building in Barksdale, and used the lumber to build a dwelling house and goat sheds on his recently purchased ranch. He further improved the place by clearing several acres of land, and building a gravity ditch to the small fields from the stream that flowed through his ranch. He planted many fruit trees, and also had a very fertile garden spot that yielded his family a good return.

The C. R. McManus family had recently moved in from East Texas and purchased the old Moore place from the Lish Whittle family. Mr. McManus was a very energetic worker, and soon had a number of improvements going up on his ranch. A large combination goat shed and barn was built, and a new concrete stucco airplane bungalow-type dwelling was put up. New land was cleared and put under irrigation, and new crops were tried out.

In 1927, J. M. Connell, an old-timer of the Dry Creek community, died in the home of his son, Ammon Connell. Mr. Connell suffered a heart attack.

In 1927, a polo team was organized in the Canyon, with the center of interest in the town of Camp Wood. J. E. Robbins was largely responsible for getting the team organized. His brother-in-law, Ray Morriss, was on the team. Other members in the club were E. G. (Nig) Pope, Jack Greer, Ernest Puett and Mr. Gober.

The game of polo requires fine-blooded horses with a special type of training. Each player was required to have at least two or three mounts, as the pace of the game soon exhausted even the most vigorous animal. The training and breeding of polo ponies became a business with a few people in the Canyon during the '20's.

A large field near the river south of Camp Wood was used as a polo ground. Games with visiting teams were played there from time to time. On January 19, 1927, the Canyon club, better known as the Nueces Cowboys, journeyed to Houston, where the Cowboys won a hard-fought battle with one of the Houston clubs. The final score was 11 to 8. Those playing on the Canyon team were Soulie Shankin, Nig Pope, Ernest Puett, Eddie Robbins, and Ray Morriss.

On February 4th, the Camp Wood club participated in a polo tournament in Brownsville. The Cowboys won every game they played except one.

While working livestock on his father's ranch on Hackberry, Clarence Colwell was seriously injured when his horse stumbled and fell. Young Colwell's face was severely lacerated, several teeth were knocked out, and some of the facial bones were broken or fractured. He was knocked unconscious and suffered a considerable loss of blood. First aid was rendered at the home of his parents, and a doctor from Rocksprings was called to treat Colwell's injuries.

During the history of the Barksdale post office, several buildings served at various times for housing the business. The old Walling house, the Fleischer house, the Kernodle store building, the Ackerly building, the Ramsey house and Mary Matthews' house, all served their term. In 1927, Lillie Manship, recently appointed postmistress, put up a new post office building adjacent to her home on Main Street. Mrs. Stovall, her predecessor in the office, had carried on the business in a little house on the corner of the block, south of the Ramsey house.

Mrs. J. W. Eads of Barksdale expanded her drug business in 1927 by the purchase of the R. S. Grantland drugstore in Camp Wood. The deal was closed on May 6th of that year. Mrs. Eugene Howerton was given the job of running the store in Barksdale. Dr. Eads enlarged his practice, at the same time, to include the town of Camp Wood, and built an office there for the convenience of his clients in that vicinity.

Progress was made in Barksdale in 1927 when the town's first cemetery association was organized. The people of the community met in June, 1927, and organized an association, electing Ida Sweeten as president and Mrs. W. A. Shockley as secretary and treasurer. It was agreed that the organization would promote and supervise the maintenance and upkeep of the local cemetery. Certain workdays during the year were designated as clean-up days, and people would gather for an all-day effort to clean the cemetery grounds and care for the graves. Considerable effort was made to identify the unknown graves, and to place markers on those that could not be identified. The fence was repaired around the cemetery, and a small toolhouse was built for keeping tools and equipment.

A Parent-Teachers Association was organized in 1927. Mothers' clubs had functioned in the Barksdale community

prior to 1927, but were not so wide in their scope nor so inclusive in their efforts as was the 1927 organization. There were seven charter members. Mrs. S. A. Raney was one of the association's first presidents.

In this same year, J. W. Richardson was manager of Alamo Lumber Company in Camp Wood. That year, the main building in the plant burned to the ground, and was replaced by another. Not long after that, Mr. Richardson was hired as the manager of the Rocksprings business. Marvin Sanderlin got the job as manager of the Camp Wood store. Mr. Sanderlin held the job a few months and quit. C. R. Priddy was hired to succeed Mr. Sanderlin as manager.

In 1927, a traveling show under the ownership of a party calling himself "The Texas Kid" came to Barksdale, and was allowed to set up its facilities for a number of performances, with the agreement that part of the proceeds of the show would go to the local PTA. The show people refused to carry out their part of the agreement, so the local PTA, under the direction of the school, filed suit against The Texas Kid and the case was brought to court. The case was decided in favor of the plaintiff, and The Texas Kid was ordered by the court to pay the sum of money specified in his agreement with the school.

On July 15, 1927, the Humble Oil Company of Houston began the building of a pipeline from one of its oil fields to the Texas coast. The line ran through parts of Real and Edwards. Several months were required to complete the line, and a number of local people secured work on the project. Trailer trucks loaded with pipe for the line were hauled through Barksdale for many days. Pump stations were set up at intervals, to give the oil a boost on its way to the shipping points. One such station was located in Real County. A considerable increase in property values for purpose of taxation was realized by the building of the line.

In 1927, there was talk of building a new and better road to Leakey by way of Barksdale and Vance. A \$273,000 road bond was proposed to finance the project. The plans for a road collapsed when the bond issue failed to carry at the polls.

That year, Albert Wells announced the marriage of his daughter, Grace, to Claud Bain, a young man recently arrived from New Mexico.

Considerable activity was going on in the vicinity of Vance in 1927. Ed Shackelford, who was leasing the two-

section ranch of Mr. Wiley on the Hackberry road above Vance, announced early in the year that Mr. Wiley was making plans to build a new home on the ranch for the Shackelfords.

Bro. C. W. Sawyers, pastor of the Canyon churches in 1927, invited Dewey Jones, a young Baptist preacher of Tennessee, to come to the Canyon and act as missionary to help in the church work in the Canyon. Bro. Jones came, and was active in holding revivals and training schools for one summer in the Vance neighborhood.

In 1927, Hugh Wood and his family lived in the new town of Camp Wood. Mr. Wood owned his home there and carried on his trade as a barber. He had two little boys about six years old, John Milburn and Morrison. One day Mr. Wood was using gasoline in his front yard to kill a den of red ants. The boys were at his side, offering their help. The gasoline exploded with sudden violence, setting fire to the clothing of the two boys and Mr. Wood. Morrison was so severely burned that he died, and Mr. Wood and the other boy received third degree burns on the hands and body.

M. E. Taylor was a breeder of registered Angora goats in 1927. His billies were prize-winners in shows in the state and over the nation. Mr. Taylor was also closely identified with the state and national goat breeders organizations, serving one or two terms as president of the TAGRA. Mr. Taylor sheared one of his prize-winning billies in April of 1927, and the three-year fleece that the buck carried weighed forty pounds.

In the late afternoon of April 6, 1927, the peaceful little town of Rocksprings was visited by a terrible disaster. A dark cloud west of Rocksprings began to form early in the afternoon. By sundown, it had assumed ominous proportions. In the oppressive silence, low rumblings of thunder could be heard as the cloud approached. The people of the town were preparing to gather at the schoolhouse for an evening program that night. At dark, the storm struck with tremendous violence. It lasted only a few minutes, but it left a shambles in its path. The town was in darkness. The local power lines were down. Rescuers worked by the intermittent flashes of lightning. Foster Owens, lineman and operator for the Rocksprings Telephone Company, hastened to the outskirts of the city with necessary telephone equipment, and tied to a line that was undamaged by the storm. He sent word to the outside world of the awful tragedy, and

called for help. Meanwhile, workers in the town were busy, trying to help the storm victims. Dr. Rogers was the only doctor in the town for some time after the storm struck, and he worked tirelessly to relieve the suffering of the injured.

Help soon began to pour in from neighboring towns, and a corps of nurses and doctors arrived from San Antonio by plane. Soon the injured were all found and rushed by plane and ambulance to San Antonio, and other places where hospitals could be found. The bodies of those who had died were carried to a wool warehouse building, and to the Ballantyne Hotel. By 8:00 of the following morning, the situation was under control, and preparation was made for the burial of the more than seventy victims of the storm.

More than seventy persons lost their lives in the devastating tornado of 1926. Following is a list of the names of those who were killed: H. B. Griffith, Mona Griffith, Mr. Gus Henderson, Mrs. Gus Henderson, two Henderson children, Burnett Babb, John Adams, Charles Baker, Rev. H. L. Spiers, Mrs. H. L. Spiers, David McKinney, Mrs. Ola Pennington, Zola Mae Pennington, Riley Feris, Mrs. Feris, Mrs. Pete Wittenburg, Peter Frank Wittenburg, Mrs. William Felts, R. Dollahite, Mattie Dollahite, Mrs. Nona Willis, Emery Willis, Sybil Billings, Etta Jane Billings, Mrs. Ora Mosier, Mr. Tolman Cowden, Mrs. Tolman Cowden, Mrs. S. A. Henry, Mrs. Walter Adams, Flora Adams, Etta Adams, Dolly Fleming, James Bourland, John Lowrance, Charles McMains, Lon Stidham, Mrs. Stidham, Nicolette Montello, Petra Perez, Victor Saldana, Cristoval Reyes, Maria Fuentes, Pedro Fuentes, Manuela Lozano, Mercedes Buentello, Refugio Nevarez, Esmeralda Duran, Gloria Fuentes, Mrs. Al Spines, Renfro baby, Cristoval de la Rosa, Mrs. Moore, Miss Dollie Fleming, Vera Perez, Nicro Letta Montell, Delafina Fuentes, and Andres Perez.

The last slug of type to be set by Editor Dollahite on the new linotype machine he had just installed was: *tory to justify acceptance the number. . . .*

More than a hundred persons were injured in the Rock-springs tornado, some so severely that they later died from their injuries. The following is an almost complete list of those who were injured: Mrs. John Lowrance, Chas. McMains, Mrs. Nellie Taylor, Willie Adams, Francisco Rames, George Henderson, L. L. Ellis, Mrs. D. Bartley, Elvie Moore, Mrs. Caroline Honnicutt, John Honnicutt, Mr. Lo-

mez, Pancho Diaz, Perez child, Spier child, Mrs. Fuentes, Cowden child, Carbajal, Virginia Adams, Margiente Pennington, Harrington child, Milton Harris' boy, Mrs. Moody, Mrs. Frank Brink, Mrs. James Bourland, Mrs. Elsie Honnicutt, Mr. Meadows, Trinidad Perez, McKinney, Juan Perez, Julian Palacios, Mrs. Angelita Perez, Tomasa Cordova, Jesus Buentello, Tefilo Lerma, Christine Renfro, Lavernia Renfro, Naomi Moser, Mrs. M. J. Moore, Victoriana Buruata, Remigo Palacios, Apolinar Duran, Leonidas Perez, Benito Fuentes, Martin Fuenteo, Mrs. Nico Fuentes, Jose Cordomer, Mrs. G. Hernandez, Mrs. H. B. Griffith, Don Griffith, T. T. Reynolds, Mrs. T. T. Reynolds, Mrs. Harrington, Mr. Harrington, Mrs. John Roberts, Cruz Perez, Aurelia Perez, Virgina Perez, Mrs. Buruata, Alesandra Fernandez, Gregoria Martinez, Cenimia Enrique, Anastacio Perez, Mrs. J. C. Scoggin, Hilorio Davilos, Lily Carbajal, Pancho Davilos, Josefa Davilos, Mrs. T. Vela and baby, Esiquiel Baylor, Pancho Fuentes, Petra, Jesse Stewart, Juanita Escovedo, Bill D. Bourland, Juanita Castillo, Armio Alvarez, Elosemia Sifuentes, G. M. Carson, Mrs. V. B. Ross, Milton Ross, Johnny Roberts, Mrs. N. A. Suttles, Mr. Suttles, Elizabeth Pennington, Lula Pennington, the Mercer baby, Sam O'Connor, Mrs. Pablo Palisco, Juan Severa, Eugenia Fuentes, Raymond Adams, Etta Adams, Juan Secera, Luiz Lozano, Claud Stewart, Francisco Fuentes, Lorenzo Fernandez, Mrs. J. A. Renfro, Mrs. Dudley Edwards, J. A. Billings, B. Montello, Dimple Taylor, Jesse Mafer, Juanita Perez, Eula Barrows, Mrs. B. Race, Santiago Jimenez, Vernon McCaleb, John Henry, Palencia Hernandez, G. Balo, Vicente Perez, Bonnie Barrows, Geronimo Velo, Mrs. S. A. Mears, Charles Mears, Fred Fisher, Albert Overstreet, Delphine Fuentes, Descarto Fuentes, Arthur Barrows, Mrs. A. Dollahite, Georgia Diaz, Virginia Perez, Mrs. Albert Overstreet, Silver Short, Lee Johnson, Daniel Reyes, Lucy Potter, Tino Perez, Gertrude Dilma, Della Dragoo, Petra Perez, Mrs. B. Fuentes, Victoria Barte, Pascual Perez, Victoria Guala, Jose Buentello, and Myrl Barrows.

The Rocksprings Church buildings were all destroyed by the devastating tornado of 1927. Most of the congregations immediately set out to rebuild. Modern buildings were put up on the old locations, and in some cases additions were made.

The Presbyterian Church, for example, was destroyed by the storm, and a modern building was erected in its

place. The First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio donated \$3,000, other churches \$850, and the balance was contributed by members. The new building and furniture cost \$6,036.

The work of rebuilding the town of Rocksprings began immediately. The American Red Cross donated \$68,204 for tornado relief. The Texas legislature passed a bill appropriating \$100,000: \$80,000 for rebuilding the school building, and \$20,000 for the waterworks. \$45,000 from other sources was given to rebuild the stricken city.

In November of 1927, Mart Nelson purchased the lot where the old John A. Barnes store had been located in Barksdale, and put up a new and modern garage building. His stepson, Johnny Sweeten, was placed in charge of the business. Mart erected a large and more expensive garage in Rocksprings, and moved his family there.

An election to consolidate the Pulliam School and the Barksdale School was held in 1927, but failed to carry. The Pulliam School, which was being taught by the writer, had about thirty scholastics at the time.

The voters of Edwards County returned all county officials to their old places in the November 1927 election. J. C. Baxter was elected as constable for precinct No. 2.

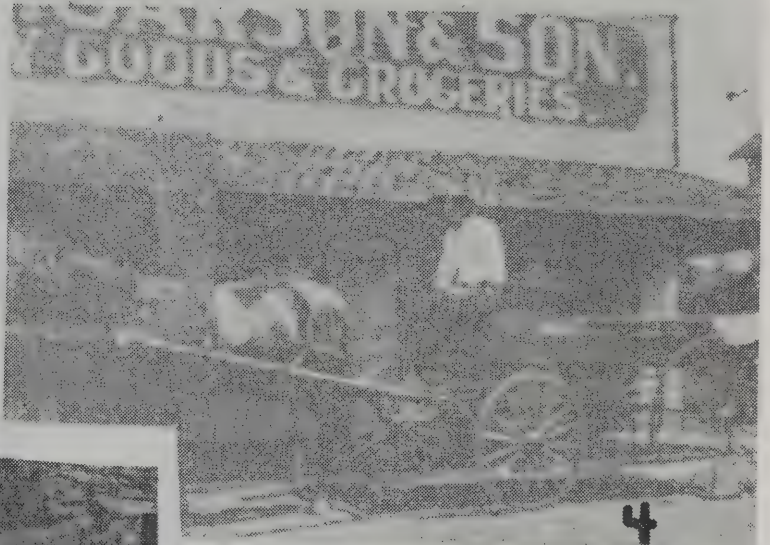
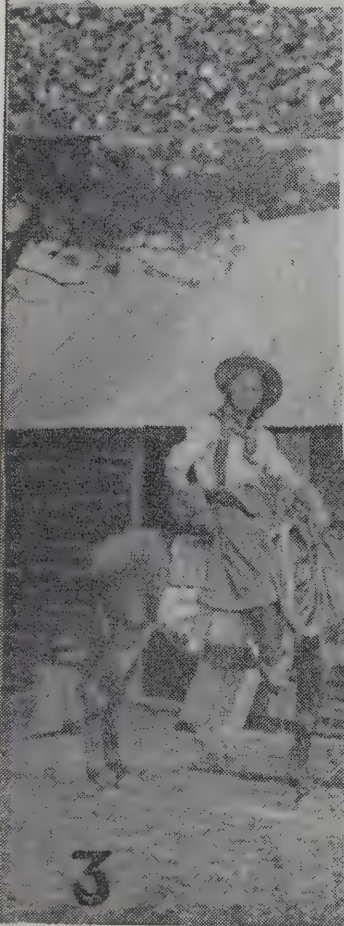
In 1927, Captain Charles Schreiner of Kerrville gave \$100,000 toward the completion of Highway 41 through Real County.

Dr. A. J. Springfield of Leakey became county health officer for Real County. All county officers for Real County were returned to office.

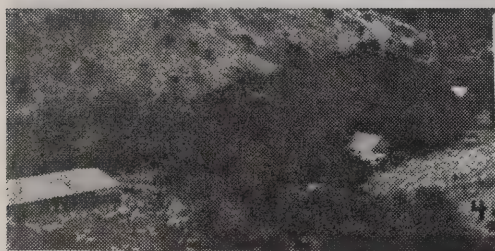
The Central Power & Light Company was given a fifty-year franchise for power lines through Real County. A franchise was also given to the Leakey Telephone Company that year.

On October 19, 1927, Jess Croft and Wayne Birtrong were given the contract to build the Latin-American School building for \$3,400 in Rocksprings.

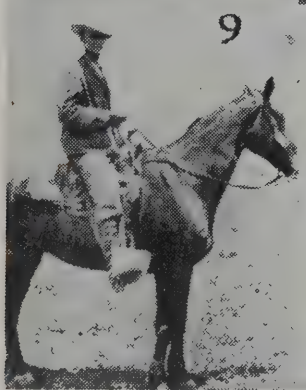
In 1927, Fandy Hutcherson and his wife were visiting in the home of Mrs. Hutcherson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Blair, who at that time lived on Brushy Creek above Vance. The Hutchersons had one little boy about seven or eight years old. Clint was the Blair's youngest child, and about the same age as the Hutcherson boy. One afternoon, the two boys took a .22 rifle and started out from the house to hunt. Clint was carrying the gun, and while trying to



1. Jesse B. Gilmer and Joe Russell 2. Andy and Effie Hale 3. Mrs. Jack Dean 4. Rocksprings, Texas. Stewart boy in hack 5. Early picnic group



1. Rocksprings String Band 2. Barksdale Group — 1906. Named at random: Brit Stewart, Haze Taylor, C. S. Greer, Tom Reavis, Sallie Reavis, J. C. Pope, Lizzie Pope, Joe Roberts, Sirilda Roberts, Martha Nelson, Alf Nelson, Mrs. Alf Nelson, Math Casey, Henry Kite, Tom Nelson, Cal Hamrick, Mart Nelson, Tom Casey, Mrs. Tom Casey, Mrs. Blackman, Mary and Gladys, John Taylor, Lee Nelson, Walter Field, Lou Casey, Doc Pannell, Minnie Greer, Elmer Harrington, Henry Reavis, Nancy Cromeans, Joe Casey, Henry Baldwin, Susie George, T. Shockley, Daisy Baldwin, Obie George, Vol Casey, Mary Reavis, Fyan Nelson, May Greer, Frank Casey, Joe Harrington, Gus Blackman, Ben Casey, Mrs. Ben Casey, J. D. Harrington 3. Rocksprings School group, 5th & 6th Grades, 1910. 1st row: Mike Stieber, Gus Reynolds, Cebia Guthrie, Enoch Jackson, Stewart Ross. 2nd row: Walter Hough, Langston Austin, Virgie Townsend, Sybil Eaton, Ella Bogarth, Letha Terry, Nannie Brown, Jessie Fred, Mrs. Augusta Austin, teacher. 3rd row: Julia Rappenstein, Basha Terry, Forrest Davis, Ida Smith. 4th row: Hattie May Benton, Bryan Babb, Fannie Kirkland, Lula May Shurley, Anna Hodge, Wesley Jernigan, Alfred Hunter, Stella Ford, Evvie Ralston, Flora Bandy, Etta Jackson, Haskill Bandy, Kenneth Guthrie, Elmer Hamilton, Archie Merritt 4. The Jim Pope ranch, four miles north of Barksdale 5. Mr. and Mrs. Scuff Raney, with their son, R. V., and daughter (Now Mrs. H. B. Echols) 6. Joe Sweeten party, Barksdale, 1902 7. D. S. Stovall family. 1st row: Allan Stovall, Mabel, Rev. D. S. Stovall, Rogers by side, Mrs. D. S. Stovall, Bonnie Bell in lap, Lula. 2nd row: Hettie, Josie, Thelma



1. Bobby Chappell 2. Fleischer Garage before storm in Rocksprings 3. Looking east from Rocksprings 4. L. V. Wallace and family standing by their first car 5. Pierce Uzzell 6. Dee Lacey family in fence-building camp 7. Hackberry School group. 1st row: Ivie Merritt, Nora Roach, Gertrude Hicks, (Katie, Erie, and Willie Merritt), Ione Hicks, Coon Allbright, Violet Colwell, Ray Burleson, Rosa Colwell, Edith Merritt, _____, Nelson Hicks, Carl Hicks, Clarence Colwell, Grace Allbright, Erie Welch, Miss Tommy Brown 8. Bullhead Creek group: Tom Moore, Bill Felts, Frank Felts, Addie Moore, Maggie Felts, Grandma Moore, Mary O'Bryant, Bonnie Perry, Willie Moore. 2nd row: Lot Felts, Pearl O'Bryant, Myrtle Tucker, Bertha Tucker, Mabel Chapman, Willie Felts. 3rd row: Lige Moore, Dewey Moore, Pat Felts, Lon Felts, Marcus O'Bryant 9. Elmo Hobbs on General John J. Pershing's horse, used in pursuit of Pancho Villa. 10. Rebekah Lodge Group. 1st row: Lillian Barber, Hettie Stovall, Mrs. Ab Barber, Mrs. Ruth Kirchner, Mrs. Gene Howerton, Mrs. Dollie Laxson, Mrs. Martha Nelson, Mrs. D. S. Stovall. 2nd row: Jim Pope, Walter Beck, Lige Power, Ab Barber, Rufus Kirchner, W. E. McCarton, Jim Rhodes, Marion Winans, Vol Ross, John Nelson, Frank Winans, John Laxson, _____, Ed Miller



1. Alf Nelson garage in Barksdale: Bud Reagan, John Nelson, Lee Nelson, Mart Nelson, Millard Nelson, Alf Nelson, two in back unknown 2. Early Rocksprings scene 3. Ed Waddel and his two sisters, Lela and Nell. 4. Joe Sweeten 5. George Ake, _____, Ben Hamrick, _____, _____ 6. Jensie Wood 7. Millard Nelson garage 8. Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Helm 9. The Eppler ranch in Vance 10. Lee Haley, B. Newman, Jim Haley, Emmitt Newman 11. Bessie Raney 12. Edwards County officials. 1912. A. P. Allison, Judge; Len Clark, Sheriff; Commissioners Charlie Daly and Jess Thurman; Sam A. Hough, clerk; Floyd Hamrick, Treasurer

throw a shell into the chamber, accidentally discharged the rifle. The little Hutcherson boy happened to be standing directly in front of the gun when it went off. The fellow was fatally wounded by the bullet, which entered his body at a vital spot. Funeral services were held the next day in Vance, and Bro. Sawyers, the local pastor of the church, preached the funeral sermon.

H. V. Stokes was the editor of the new Rocksprings paper following the death of the former editor, Mr. Dollahite, who was a tornado casualty.

Mrs. M. Wooldridge became the operator of the Ranchman's Hotel in Rocksprings in 1927.

Varment hides were commanding a good price in 1927. One trapper sold his week's catch of ten coons for \$120.00. Ringtails were selling for \$3.50.

Bob Fairbanks was operator of the Fairbanks Cafe in Rocksprings in 1927.

Mart Nelson's new garage was completed in Rocksprings in 1927.

In this same year, Manuel Angeles, Philippino storekeeper in the Mexican part of Rocksprings, was found dead by the side of his car on the Sonora road five miles out of Rocksprings.

The deceased had been shot with buckshot, apparently from ambush. O. O. Cowser discovered the body as he was going to his ranch. He saw two men running away from the scene of the murder, but was unable to identify them.

The dead man was known to have had many enemies in the Mexican part of town, but investigation failed to reveal anyone connected with the crime.

A complete new line of cars was introduced by the Chevrolet Motor Company in 1927. Chevrolets became very popular in Edwards County at that time.

Sport Barber was the driver of the Red Diamond Bus Line from Rocksprings to Uvalde in 1927.

One time, Allen Howerton took his wife up to visit Dan Roberts on Cedar Creek. Allen hadn't been married very long, and his wife was not too well acquainted with the ways of the Canyon folk. Mr. Roberts was a storehouse of jokes and funny stories, and had a knack for telling a yarn that would give the most impossible tale an air of plausibility. Among the other stories he told that day was one about the big fish in a hole of water below his house. It seemed that Mr. Roberts had been losing a few of his

goats, and was at a loss to explain their disappearance. One day, he went down the road below his house on a tour of inspection, and upon reaching the big hole of water, saw a sight that his eyes could not believe. A big fish, so big, in fact, that the writer hesitates to state his exact dimensions for fear some reader might doubt Mr. Roberts' story, had just made a swipe through the air at the water's edge and knocked a grown goat into the stream. The goat was swallowed in one huge gulp. Before the other goats on the river's edge could get away, the fish knocked overboard another goat and that unfortunate critter disappeared in a like manner.

Mr. Roberts' listeners were spellbound. The look of credulity on the face of Allen's young wife made Mr. Roberts ashamed that he had told such an outlandish yarn, so he went on to explain that it may have been a kid instead of a grown goat that the fish had knocked into the water.

Shortly after the storm of 1927, Warren Hutt, Sr., and his family, moved to Rocksprings. Mr. Hutt was a newspaperman by trade, and his purpose in moving to Rocksprings was to publish a weekly newspaper. The establishment of Mr. Dollahite had been destroyed by the tornado, and the county was without a newspaper. Mr. Hutt set up his office in a building on the east side of the square, near the old E. I. Miller garage and Ford agency building. John Sawyers was employed to help install the presses and other machinery, and to help operate the linotype machine. Mr. Hutt proved to be a newspaperman of great talent, and his editorials did much to shape the political thinking of the area, and also affected to a marked degree the civic policy of the city of Rocksprings. Mr. Hutt's son, Warren, Jr., very early came to be an apprentice in his father's office, and he still continues to operate the business handed over to him at the death of his father some years ago.

J. P. Mayes, R. H. Earwood, and Ed Custer were directors of First State Bank in Rocksprings in 1927.

Smokey Joe Wood was winner in a wrestling contest in February of 1928, when he accepted the challenge thrown out by a wrestler in a traveling show. In wrestling parlance, Joe ousted the challenger, thoroughly and promptly.

Edwards County has an area of 1960 square miles, or 1,254,400 acres.

Nat (Kiawa) Jones, early Texas Ranger, and for twenty-

five years a Texas peace officer, took his own life in March, 1928.

Paul Edwards closed a deal for 10,500 acres of land in Kinney County in March of 1928.

2,000,000 pounds of mohair was the estimated production in 1928 in Edwards County. Prices paid ranged from sixty to eighty cents.

Zeb Newson operated a dairy in Rocksprings in 1928.

The Central Power & Light Company built a \$75,000 high line from Camp Wood to Leakey in 1928.

Mr. John Sweeten, car salesman for the Divide Chevrolet Company, in 1928 severed his connections with that firm and entered into a partnership with Dud Edwards in the trucking business. Two large International trucks were put into use on the freight lines.

The Uvalde & Northern Railroad, connecting Uvalde and Camp Wood, was sold in 1928 to the Sugarland Industries.

The Gail Oil Company drilled a wildcat well on the Neal Jernigan ranch north of Barksdale in 1928.

Good ewes were selling in 1928 for \$13.00.

William Foster Owens was awarded a Theodore N. Yale bronze medal in 1928 for noteworthy service to the Rocksprings community in April 1927, after the destructive tornado. Mr. Owens, a local telephone lineman, went to the outskirts of the town after the storm to establish communication with the outside world, and was instrumental in bringing doctors and nurses and other help to the scene of the disaster at the town of Rocksprings.

Aubrey Clark purchased from Elton Ellis his interest in the Rocksprings Recreation Club in 1928, and the club went under the managership of Mr. Clark and Page Smart.

Page Carson and Roy Benskin sold their Uvalde-San Antonio bus line in 1928 to the Painter Bus Company.

J. C. Powell was elected superintendent of the Barksdale School in that year.

W. A. Varga sold his mercantile business in Carta Valley, in 1928, to the Val Verde Grocery Company, and Austin Miller was placed in charge of the business.

On February 24, 1928, the Camp Wood polo team, composed of J. E. Robbins, J. E. Puett, R. D. Morriss, E. G. Pope, and J. E. Renfro, went to San Antonio, where it participated in the army tournament at Fort Sam Houston. The Camp Wood team at that tournament was considered

to be one of the best in the state. On March 9, the team returned to San Antonio, where it was defeated by the Fort Bliss team from El Paso, 14 to 11. Camp Wood won first rank among civilian teams at that tournament.

In 1928, J. P. King, associational missionary for the Baptist State Convention, sold his two-section ranch on Bullhead, and bought the B. A. Stewart ranch between Barksdale and Vance. This ranch had previously been owned by Henry Kite, and before him, by Charley Daly. The Baker family lived on the place in an early day.

On May 4, 1928, Early Arceneaux, Church of Christ minister of national fame, came to Barksdale and preached in the local Church of Christ.

On May 10, 1928, V. L. Rasmussen of San Antonio was awarded the contract to build the Rocksprings School science building at a price of \$17,300.

A disastrous fire occurred at the Camp Wood Cedar Yard on July 13, 1928. The fire departments from Rocksprings and Fort Clarke came to fight the blaze. The combined efforts of the two companies extinguished the fire, after it had burned six hours and destroyed cedar posts valued at \$10,000.

In 1928, H. J. (Jack) Dean bought out the Hooper and Halbert interests in the old J. A. Dean Telephone Company, and moved his family to Camp Wood. The Barksdale exchange had been moved to Camp Wood with the building of the new town, and it was there that Mr. Dean located his family. He immediately began to improve the Canyon telephone service by the repair of existing facilities and the building of new lines. Mr. Dean's line extended to the Lemmie Field ranch on Pulliam, from which point the lines of the Rocksprings Telephone Company took over the service. In 1928, Mr. Street Gilmer built a new copper line from Rocksprings south to the L. A. Field ranch.

In the fall of 1929, the writer was re-elected to teach the Pulliam School. Children from the Ulysses Field family, the Bob Craigs, the John Locklars, the John Leonards, the Walter Craigs, the Burl Hamricks, and several families of itinerant cedar cutters, attended school there that year. One interesting part of the school program that year was the presentation of a two-hour play, entitled "Deacon Dubbs," at the Barksdale School auditorium, by local Pulliam talent. Included in the cast of actors were Lemmie Field, Clyde Locklar, Stanley Craig, Louie Craig, Velma Leonard, Ethe-

lene Leonard, and the writer. The play was presented before a large gathering of Canyon people through the courtesy of the superintendent of the Barksdale School, Mr. J. C. Powell.

W. A. Shockley, an old-timer of the Camp Wood Creek community, passed away at his home in Uvalde on January 11, 1929. Uncle Jack Cromeans, early settler on Dry Creek and builder of the Canyon's first gristmill, also died. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. C. W. Sawyers. Special music was rendered by Uncle George Sewell, Oscar Werner, George Shockley, and Ray Chant. Mr. Cromeans was ninety-four years and six months old at his death. At one time, he had served as a Ranger under Captain Bill Burleson. He was married to Nancy Jane Wood in Coryell County in 1863. He was a member of the Methodist Church.

The family of T. O. Hutchins, a Pentacostal preacher, lived on the Marvin O'Bryant place on Bullhead in 1929. On February 1 of that year, one of the small children of the family wandered away from the house and was not missed until two or three hours later. The parents began a search immediately after discovering the child's absence, and found the body in a dipping vat below the house. The grief-stricken parents were unable to revive the child, and the body was later taken to the family's home town, where the young child was laid to rest in the family burial plot.

The cedar business reached its peak in Camp Wood in the years 1927 and 1928. By the first of the year of 1929, most of the timber had been cut and removed from the Lost Creek cedar brake west of Camp Wood. There were still considerable tracts of heart cedar in the hills between Leakey and Camp Wood. Poor roads in that area made it difficult to get timber out of that cedar brake. Local citizens petitioned the County Commissioners Court of Real County for a road from Camp Wood to Leakey, to be routed up Camp Wood Creek. The road was begun February 1, 1929, and was completed several months later. Soon trucks began to bring in the posts from the east brake to the local cedar yard.

On February 15, 1929, H. B. Palmer of Uvalde, Boy Scout executive, came to Barksdale in connection with the purchase of land on the Nueces River near Barksdale as a location for a Boy Scout camp. Horace K. Fawcett of Del Rio was also instrumental in getting the camp located at that place. A site was selected about two miles north of Barks-

dale, and land was bought from the Beck heirs and from the estate of S. P. Stockton. Cabins were soon put up, and the camp made ready for its formal opening. The camp was named Camp Fawcett, in honor of Mr. Fawcett, who had spent considerable time and money in getting the project underway. V. A. Brown also helped in the organization of the camp.

The Barksdale High School basketball team was runner-up for district championship in 1929. Elmer Talley and Allison George were chosen to represent Barksdale on the all-district team.

On March 22, 1929, the Canyon received the promise of a paved road from Uvalde through Barksdale to Rocksprings. Just ten years had elapsed since the voting of a \$400,000 road bond for the improvement of the roads in Edwards County.

March 29, 1929, marked the beginning of Camp Eagle Nest on the east prong of the Nueces. Fifteen houses were built there in the months that followed, the work being done under the supervision of Mr. Murphy.

Barksdale School competed in the various track and field events in District Meet in 1929. On April 19, Allison George won first place in the shotput, and third in the javelin throw, and Douglas Roberts placed second in the mile run. The local basketball team was also a winner in 1929.

High School talent presented the play, "The Dixie Rose," in the local high school auditorium in April, 1929.

E. G. Pope sold his 486-acre tract of land off the old T. P. Rhodes ranch to William and Sterling Wooldridge, on April 19, 1929, for a price of \$11.00 per acre. That tract of land lay on the east side of the Rhodes tract, along the banks of Camp Wood Creek.

In 1928, Ed Kelly was re-elected county judge of Real County. Math Casev, Ora E. Tom, George Field, and A. G. Wells were returned to their respective offices.

The Commissioners Court of Real County granted the Central Power and Light Company a fifty-year franchise for building transmission lines through the county. The Leakey Telephone Company was also incorporated, and granted a franchise to operate within the limits of Real County.

E. D. Pannell modernized his store building in Vance, in 1929, by the addition of a drive-in filling station and other improvements. The work was done by Bro. C. W. Sawyers.

The Wood family had a reunion at the Zumwalt Crossing on Pulliam Creek on March 3, 1929.

Considerable activity in the livestock market took place in 1929. On May 17, 1929, Clarence Colwell of Hackberry bought from A. N. Welch, 2655 mutton goats, at \$4.50 per head. Lemmie Field bought from Rocksprings parties 500 head of big muttons at \$6.00. Zac Kelley leased the eight-section Card Springs ranch from Reed Hargus, and bought 1000 mutton goats in the deal. Floyd Hamrick was associated with Zac Kelley in the trade.

J. T. Swanson was game warden for the Canyon area in 1929. On May 31 of that year, he put 4000 bass in the Nueces River near Barksdale. Mr. Swanson was very active in enforcing the game laws, and collected many fines from violators during his term in the Canyon.

Jerry Burleson of Vance bought the old McCurty place on Hackberry on June 14, 1929, for a price of \$10.00 per acre.

A near tragedy occurred in Barksdale on July 26, 1929. A party of young people were swimming in a hole of water near Barksdale. In the group were Lillie Lee Reagan, Della Thurman, Mrs. Edward Taylor, and Alice Roth. Miss Roth ventured into water over her head, and immediately got into trouble. Mrs. Taylor went to her rescue, but was nearly drowned by the frantic efforts of Miss Roth to keep her head above water. Lillie Lee and Miss Thurman came to the rescue, and were finally able to pull the drowning pair to shallow water.

On August 23, 1929, the Central Power and Light Company began the construction of a \$480,000 transmission line from their generating plant in Batesville through Edwards County to Sonora. Several months were required to complete the work, and a number of local people found employment on the project. Considerable difficulty was experienced in putting up the line in the rough country between Barksdale and the Divide. Horses were used to drag the huge poles up the mountains to the places where they were needed. All the holes had to be blasted with dynamite, and on one occasion a horse fell into one of the holes and died before he could be rescued.

The Rocksprings Woman's Club was organized in 1928, and federated in 1929. Through the work of its members, an attractive club building was erected, which was used by the club and for social and civic gatherings of the town.

The club sponsors the Girl Scouts and a library.

In 1929, Doc Pannell of Vance, in addition to operating his store in Vance and his mother's ranch, had a ranch leased at New Braunfels, where he ran a considerable string of goats. His brother, Ellis, was placed in charge of the ranch there. On November 20, Mr. Pannell terminated his New Braunfels lease and moved his goats to the Real County ranch.

Bro. J. W. Richardson was the pastor at Vance in 1929. His father-in-law, also a Baptist minister, was in charge of the encampment ground at Alto Frio, and also pastored the Leahey Baptist church.

In 1929, Gilbert Custer, son of Ed Custer, Edwards County sheriff, had extensive ranching interests on Pulliam Creek and Little Hackberry. He owned the old Bates place on Pulliam of ten sections, and the seven-section Neal ranch on Little Hackberry. He had two sections of land on Polecat under lease. Gilbert also made considerable income from the sale of cordwood, which he cut on his ranches and hauled to the Rocksprings market.

Other members of the Ed Custer family were living at different places over the country. George was studying medicine in a Northern school, and Jasper was a practicing physician in Shreveport, Louisiana. Edna had married and was living in Pettus, Texas. Earl operated a barber shop in Rocksprings. Fred Custer was killed in Arizona in 1927, and the body brought back to Barksdale for burial. Mrs. Custer died from an operation in 1928.

In 1929, the old C. S. Greer store in Barksdale was operated by the Sweeten brothers, Charlie and Joe. B. A. Stewart had sold that business to Bud Howerton, who in turn had sold to Ted Daly, and for a time Daly and Sweeten were in a partnership.

In 1919, Lum Thompson leased his five-section Bullhead ranch to Zeno Stapleton, and moved to Mexico, where he was employed as a foreman on a large ranch owned by Hal Mangum of the Alamo Lumber Company. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson stayed in Mexico for ten years, and their ranch in Real County was leased successively by Zeno Stapleton, Babe Waddell, Ben Smith, Willie Williams, Buck Thurman, and Forrest Hatley. In 1929, the Thompsons left their Mexico job and came back to live on their ranch above Vance. A nice, modern home was built on the bank of the river near the old house, and was furnished throughout

with new furniture. A well was drilled, and a windmill installed to furnish water for household use. Many other improvements were made about the place in the way of fences and corrals, and 600 fine-grade nannies were bought from Rocksprings parties, and the Thompsons settled down to the business of making a living.

In 1928, Mr. Eaton sold the Rocksprings light plant to Central Power and Light Company, and in 1929 the latter organization purchased land from the Draper estate for the location of a sub-station. The same year, the highline was erected.

Rocksprings rebuilt quickly after the tornado of 1927. A modern school building was put up on the site of the one destroyed by the storm, and a Mr. Peters served as superintendent of schools for a period of about ten years, during which time the school system experienced an unprecedented growth. During the period, the school had a vocational agriculture department that was second to none in the Edwards Plateau region. The athletic program of the school was at its peak, and state records were set in track and field events. Monty Earwood, son of Raymond Earwood, prominent Divide ranchman, set a new record for the shotput at the Interscholastic meet at Austin.

In the summer of 1929, the football field of the Rocksprings School was used as a location for a rodeo and barbecue. This was the beginning of the county park project that Edwards County now has available for recreational purposes. That year, the Edwards County Fair Association was organized, and sold stock to raise money to buy land and construct improvements for a fair park. Directors of the association were T. C. Hampton, V. A. Brown, Brown Epper-son, Gus Young, and R. H. Earwood. On September 28, 1929, the association purchased 9.26 acres from Fred Ross, and on June 9, 1930, twenty acres were purchased from E. H. and Edith Draper.

The practice of inviting the Chautauqua company to come to Rocksprings each season was resumed, and it was the privilege of the writer to attend one of the performances of the troupe in the high school auditorium in 1929. In the course of the evening performance, at which a great crowd of people had gathered, a bad storm came up from the west, with the threat of rain. The people, still nervous from their experiences in 1927, became frightened, many of them leaving before the program was concluded.

In the '20's, E. I. Miller operated a garage business in Rocksprings, and had the Ford agency in that place. His place of business was on the corner west of Mart Nelson's garage. In 1929, Mr. Miller sold his business to J. A. Miller and Forrest Weldon, and moved to Presidio, Texas, where he again went into business. Soon afterward, a destructive flood on the Rio Grande swept through Presidio, and swept away the business of Mr. Miller, cleaning him out completely.

Claud Gilmer was a practicing attorney in Rocksprings in 1929, and was still serving in the office of County Judge. Mr. Gilmer had previously served as principal of the Rocksprings High School and as county attorney for Edwards County.

The Fleischer boys, Herman and Gus, operated a garage business on the site of the old Herman Fleischer lot on the south side of the square. The Buswells operated a grocery store and mercantile business, and Eric Cloudt had a grocery business at a location east of the First State Bank building.

A. W. Owens, who owned the picture show building in partnership with Lon R. Smart, also had a mercantile business on the south side of the square.

In Camp Wood, the Bowden Hutchersons were doing a good business in a little store on Main Street. The Hutchersons had moved to Camp Wood in 1925, from the ranch on Camp Wood Creek, and opened up a grocery business in the old Grantland drugstore building. As the business expanded, it became necessary to find more room, so the business was moved to Main Street.

The Warren Puett family operated a mercantile establishment in Camp Wood in 1929, and also had the agency for the Gulf Refining Company products. The Puett store was first located off Main Street, near the old Fitzgerald Hotel, but was later moved to Main Street at the site of the present Gene Howerton building.

In 1929, Ray Chant had the old McCurty ranch on Hackberry under lease. He stocked the place with the goats he bought from E. G. Pope of Camp Wood.

Stores were operated in Montell in 1929 by John D. Sutherland, A. G. Beecroft, and Jay Whitecotton. Mr. Beecroft was local postmaster. The telephone exchange was in the home of the Doc Coleman family, and the Walker family operated a little garage business south of the J. D. Sutherland store.

A contract for \$6740 was let in February, 1929, for improving the county jail. The contract was given to the Southern Prison Company of San Antonio.

S. W. Dismukes opened an automobile agency in Rocksprings in 1925, as agent for the Whippet car.

Alfred Welch of Edwards County bought the large Herring ranch in Brewster County, in 1929, and moved 11,500 goats there.

C. G. Race of Rocksprings sold new Oldsmobiles in 1929 to J. G. Thompson, J. F. Winans, Louie Strackbein, Joe Turner, Less Taylor, L. A. Field, L. M. Field, and Louie Babb.

Rangers R. Y. Secrest and Henry Glasscock, assisted by Monty Kirkland, deputy sheriff, and J. H. Boyce, constable of Edwards County, arrested two Mexican men and a Mexican woman in Little Mexico in March, 1929, and captured twenty gallons of whiskey which they were in the act of unloading in the town.

J. W. Richardson established a cedar yard in Rocksprings in 1929. Much of the cedar passing through the yard came from the Kickapoo county on the West Nueces.

Garrett and Sons operated a freight line out of Rocksprings in 1929.

E. W. Bacon sold his 10,000-acre ranch, eighteen miles south of Rocksprings, in May, 1929, to J. B. Young.

T. B. Seale of Rocksprings moved 3000 sheep and goats to a 7000-acre ranch he had leased in Travis County in 1929.

Camp Eagle's Nest was officially opened on June 18, 1929. The camp was owned by W. L. Murray of Houston.

L. A. Clark sold fifty Delaine stud bucks to O. Q. Marshall in June, 1929.

Rocksprings had a town baseball club in 1929. Some of its members were Smoky Wood, Zeb Newsom, and Dan Kirchner.

Manning Billings brought the first Ford into Rocksprings.

Joe Billings was known as the Isaac Walton of Rocksprings.

Lon Gray bought a 2700-acre ranch on the Nueces near Camp Wood in August, 1929, for a reported price of \$17,261.

Plans were being made in 1929 for the Batesville-Sonora highline to pass through Rocksprings. The Central Power

and Light Company was behind the project, and the contract was let to L. E. Meyers Company of Dallas.

Weldon and Miller, a partnership composed of Forrest Weldon and Alton Miller of Junction, purchased the Rocksprings Motor Company from Dr. J. Craig Miller and son, E. I. Miller.

Mohair sold in October, 1929, for forty-six and fifty-six cents.

T. W. Ake built seven tourist cottages in Rocksprings in 1929, at the junction of the Sonora and Del Rio highways.

800 cars of cedar were shipped from Camp Wood in 1928, with an estimated value of \$500,000.

C. R. Priddy was made manager of the Alamo Lumber Company of Camp Wood in January, 1929.

The Uvalde Cedar Company, with offices in Camp Wood, was the largest cedar shipper in the United States in 1929.

A big mass meeting was held in Camp Wood in April, 1929, on an occasion sponsored by the Central Power and Light Company. The business of the meeting was the discussion of a vast improvement project for the Canyon, which included an irrigation project on the Riverside Ranch south of Camp Wood.

Jim Gray presided at the meeting, and he discussed the plan to the people.

The program was being launched by the CP&L through the Giant Industrial Engineering and Management Industries, and the latter company was then engaged in clearing land and getting it in shape preparatory to setting out thousands of papershell pecan trees. The company agreed to properly irrigate the land throughout the year, prune, spray, and take care of the timber for a period of ten years. Tracts of this land were offered for sale to the public at \$500 per acre, \$10.00 down and \$10.00 per month.

1929 was a peak year for the Nueces Canyon area. Business was at its highest, and everybody was making money. Fine automobiles and fine homes were the order of the day. Lemmie Field purchased a new Oldsmobile from the Race agency in Rocksprings, and the car was so long that Lemmie had to build an extension to his garage to accommodate the vehicle. L. A. Field, the Walter Craigs, and the Jack Henrys all bought new Oldsmobiles. H. Ray, of Uvalde, extended

his Chevrolet agency to include a business in Rocksprings, and the new Chevrolet car became very popular with Canyon and Divide people.

In 1929, the Central Power and Light Company put up a generating plant in Camp Wood. This plant furnished electricity for Camp Wood and Barksdale until the completion of the company's high line, at which time the two towns received power from that line.

In 1929, the stock market broke in the New York stock exchange, and repercussions were immediately felt over the entire nation. Prices dropped, and unemployment became prevalent everywhere. By 1930, the situation in the Canyon became critical. Many ranchmen in the Edwards County territory were forced into bankruptcy, and businesses over the whole county were affected. Banks found themselves with loans they couldn't collect, and with most of their capital stock and deposit money in loans on livestock that was now worth only a fraction of its original value. Some ranchmen turned their goats and sheep, on which they owed as much as \$150 per head, over to the banks. Some ranches were foreclosed and sold to the highest bidder at sheriff sales. The long automobiles were traded for Model T's, and some people talked about going back to the horse-and-buggy days.



CHAPTER IX

The Retributive Years — 1930-1940

The writer remembers that he was out of a teaching job in 1930 and that farm produce was selling for practically nothing — when it could be sold at all. Sweet potatoes were selling for \$1.00 per hundred, and sugar cane and sorghum molasses brought sixty cents a gallon.

The Dick Whatley family had moved to the Stovall farm in 1929 to help the boys operate the ranch, and the burden of making a living for the two families proved to be quite a load. Odd jobs were secured to supplement the income from the farm. One of the boys worked on the road project on Highway 55, when hard surface was put on the road from Rocksprings south to the top of the hill. Rogers worked on the ranch helping Lum Thompson kid his goats, and with the general ranch work.

In 1930, Ed Greer left the Canyon and moved to Imperial, Texas, where he had a teaching job. Mr. Greer had previously been superintendent of the Barksdale School system, and also was operating extensively in the business of topworking native pecan timber and grafting papershell varieties on the new tops. His contracts included pecan orchards as far south as Laguna, Texas.

Colon Henderson began to branch out in the late '20's, and among his enterprises was the budded pecan business. He purchased the old Balke place from Bud and Dennis Pope, and began to put improved varieties on the several hundred native pecan trees on the place. Mr. Henderson also had contracts to bud timber on other ranches in the Canyon. Many trees were budded on the Lige Powers ranch on Pulliam, and other places over the country.

Mr. Henderson also did considerable business in marketing walnut stumps and timber. The walnut stumps were very valuable in making veneer for furniture, on account of the beautiful patterns that are brought out when the timber is sawed in cross sections. Mr. Henderson made one trip to West Texas for stumps, and took with him Douglas Roberts and Dee Ory to help dig and load the stumps that

were found in the course of the work. A carload of stumps was secured on that trip, and netted the party a considerable sum of money on the New York market.

Bud Reagan also worked at the business of getting walnut stumps. He dug stumps all over the river beds of the Canyon, and made one trip into Old Mexico. On that trip he got into trouble with the local people, and was barely able to escape with his equipment and his life. Mr. Reagan worked for several months in Arizona and New Mexico, digging stumps for the market in those places.

The Welch boys, Pat and Newt, also engaged in the walnut stump business. The competition between the various groups soon cleaned out the stand of walnut timber in the Canyon, and the people thus engaged turned to other means of livelihood.

Fritz Beck operated his mother's ranch west of Barksdale in the '20's and early '30's. The Beck ranch was a choice piece of property and was stocked with sheep, goats, and cattle.

Tom Beck was adding to his ranch holdings on Spring Creek, where he had moved shortly after his marriage in 1909.

Ross Powers had acquired the 5000-acre Halpin ranch, and had it stocked with goats and sheep. On one occasion, Mr. Powers bought a string of sheep from T. Phillips on the Divide. The sheep were driven from the Phillips ranch near Junction to the Powers ranch west of Barksdale. While driving the herd through the Field ranch on Pulliam, many of the sheep broke away from the herd and scattered through the dense cedar brake through which the road passed. Mr. Powers spent several months in trying to gather the lost sheep, and was never able to get them all.

In 1930, the Church of Christ congregation in Barksdale added to their church building several Sunday School classrooms.

In 1930, J. L. Johnson was elected county judge of Edwards County. Mr. Johnson had moved in from the Johnson City country, where his people had long been prominent. The town of Johnson City was named after Mr. Johnson's father, and Lyndon Johnson, a cousin, was beginning his rise to fame as a national figure.

B. J. Stewart was elected as county attorney of Edwards County in 1930. Mr. Stewart had served two terms as state representative, and in the early '20's had been instrumental

in creating the Vance Independent School District during his term as representative.

S. A. Hough was returned to office as county clerk, Frank Winans as assessor, Ed Custer as sheriff, L. V. McCaleb as county surveyor, and H. R. Perkins as commissioner of precinct No. 2.

Frank Winans purchased the seven-section ranch south of Rocksprings, which was originally a part of the old Harry Young ranch, from Fred Ross, trading his small ranch near Rocksprings to Mr. Ross in the deal.

The formal opening of Camp Fawcett on the Nueces was held in 1930. In February, 1930, thirty acres were bought on the Nueces near Barksdale, by the Southwest Texas Council Boy Scouts of America, for a camping site for Boy Scouts. The land was purchased for \$6000, and conveyed to E. K. Fawcett, president of the Southwest Texas Council, and his successor, V. A. Brown, chairman of the Area Camping Committee of the council, and the directors, K. T. Biggs and F. M. Getzender of Uvalde, and O. C. Meyers of Maverick County. This land had been in the Stockton family since 1907 when it was bought from W. R. Caruthers. It was sold to the Boy Scouts by the Stockton family. Money for the purchase was raised by private subscription. The big dining hall named the V. A. Brown hall was built by volunteer workers, and much of the material was donated. The large supporting timbers were given by the T&NO Railroad Company.

One of the beauty spots of the Nueces Canyon, and a place of interest for many people over a wide area, is the painted bluff on the old Dan Roberts ranch on Cedar Creek. The high bluff on which the picture writing is located is some two miles above the Dan Roberts house. The trail that connects the two places passes close by a large hole of deep blue water. Just above the waterhole is a series of strong springs, from which gush sparkling streams of clear cold water. The supply of water from these springs is un-failing. Masses of ferns and other water plants line the river bank for some distance, and just above the springs the trail runs under an overhanging bluff, from which seep-springs send forth a constant drip of water. Farther on up the river bed, one can see in the distance the towering precipice known as "Painted Bluff." The face of the cliff is a beautiful sight to behold. Rising almost perpendicularly from the river's bed, the bluff rears its majestic head more than

300 feet into the sky. In the stratified face of the cliff is written the story of the ages. Eons of time have passed since the first ripple of water carried its tiny load of eroded material across the spot, and endless ages thereafter contributed to the slow carving of the deep canyon that is now Painted Bluff Canyon. Underneath, and near the upper end of the bluff, may be seen the colorful picture writing of the Indian tribes of days gone by. Some archeologists believe that the spot was a sort of post office through which the Indians communicated with one another. No one has yet been able to decipher the hieroglyphic lettering that the Indians used, but without a doubt the pictures on the cliff do have a meaning, and for one to discover a code by which the meaning can be brought to light might reveal some interesting facts concerning the life of the Indians who roamed the Canyon country before the coming of the white man.

Another beautiful place in the vicinity of the Roberts ranch is the Crider Blue Hole, on another prong of the river above the Roberts place. A deep round hole has been carved there out of the river bed by the constant flow of a stream of water that tumbles in a never-ending torrent from a low bluff overhead. The hole may be thirty feet deep at its deepest part, and the water is so clear that one can see the small pebbles that cover the bottom of the basin. The pool is oval-shaped, almost round, and is some forty feet across. The springs that pour their water into the little lake come from under a cliffside several hundred yards above the fall. Below the hole of water, J. W. Crider once took up a pre-emption of land, and it was while living on that place that he married Lydia Roberts in the days of long ago. Lydia is still living on the plains near Post, Texas, but her faithful partner has long since passed on to meet his Trail Boss in the last great roundup.

In 1930, a member of a Canyon family near Leakey was accused of stealing goats by a certain party, and the Real County grand jury brought out a bill of indictment. The charges had been made by Kenneth Guthrie, who ranched near Camp Wood on the JWJ ranch. The Canyon family lived over the Divide on the Dry Frio. The writer was summoned on the jury panel for that case, and on the opening day of the case, was selected as a member of the petit jury of twelve men to sit at the trial. Will A. Morriss, Sr., and his son, Will A. Jr., with another lawyer from San Antonio, were the defense attorneys. Ditzer H. Jones and Dis-

strict Attorney K. K. Woodley, with a lawyer from Uvalde, were the prosecuting attorneys. A long line of witnesses had been summoned for the case, among them being K. Reagor of Uvalde, Mr. Storms from San Marcos, Ed Custer of Camp Wood, O. L. McNeeley of Rocksprings, and members of the family of the defendant. The trial lasted two days, and the case was turned to the jury late in the afternoon of the second day. Will A., Sr. was at his best in his concluding remarks to the jury, and his speech was a masterpiece of oratory. The jury was placed in charge of a Ranger deputized by Sheriff Casey for that purpose. The first night of the trial, there was a big dance in Leahey, and the jury was permitted to watch the function from a distance, but the guard was very careful to see that no contact was made with any member of the jury by an outsider. The verdict of not guilty was reached in a very short time the next day when the judge gave his charge to the jury. The members of the family of the acquitted man came around and shook the hand of each man of the jury, and expressed their thanks to its members for the verdict that had been rendered.

The writer on that trip stayed with the O. C. Pope family who were, at that time, operating a rooming house in Leahey.

Some of the other members of the jury were Marcus O'Bryant, Henry Baldwin, Sam Cooper, T. Shockley, J. B. Reagan, and Ernest Leinweber. Sam Cooper was the jury foreman.

In 1930, Math Casey declined to run again for the office of sheriff of Real County. John Baugh ran for that office and was elected. All other officers were re-elected. J. M. Turner of Camp Wood was appointed deputy sheriff to serve the Camp Wood area.

In 1930, an election was called in Camp Wood to consider the proposition of incorporating the town. The election failed to carry, ninety votes being cast against incorporation, and ten for incorporation.

The first annual fair of the Edwards County Fair Association was held in July, 1930, in connection with the tenth annual goat show and sale of the TAGRA, with an estimated attendance of 4000.

T. B. Phillips bought the Halpin ranch west of Barksdale in March, 1930.

R. T. Walker was general manager of the Uvalde and Northern Railroad in 1930. J. W. Greer was auditor.

Dr. A. D. Welch came to Rocksprings in March, 1930, and set up a practice with Dr. Rogers.

Albert Overstreet was given the contract in March, 1930, by the Central Power and Light Company, to wire the houses in the town of Barksdale, and make necessary connections with the meter boxes.

The Owen and Smart theater in Rocksprings installed "talkie" movies in January, 1930.

In 1931, A. W. Hunter, a relative of Marvin Hunter, Bandera publisher of the *Frontier Times*, came to Camp Wood, and set up a printing office in a building north of the old Kendrick Hotel. Mr. Hunter called his paper *The Camp Wood Crony*.

Voters of Real County voted on a proposed \$125,000 road bond issue in 1931. The election failed to carry by a margin of sixty-four votes, but later in the year another election was called and an \$85,000 bond issue carried with a vote of eighty-eight for and fifty-seven against the issue. The bonds subsequently issued were known as road bonds No. 3. The proceeds of the bonds were used to improve the then existing county roads, and to buy road maintenance machinery.

Terry Hill was superintendent of the Camp Wood School in 1931, a position he had held for sixteen years. Mrs. Hill was a teacher in the primary grades. At Vance, Jess Bates was the principal of the school and was driving the Bullhead school bus.

The writer was elected to teach in the Hackberry School in the fall of 1931. Will Whittle, Clarence Colwell, and Robert Colwell were the trustees of the Hackberry district that year. Thirty-two children were enrolled, and Miss Joe Haynes was the principal of the school. The writer boarded with the George Perkins family, and drove the Perkins car to school every school day. Mr. Perkins had four children attending the school: Howard, Leo, Nelva, and Gwen. The Alvin Haynes, the Melvin Hicks, the Burt Smith, the C. L. Smith, the Hutto, the Colwell, and the Will Whittle families, sent their children to the Hackberry School that year.

The Camp Wood bank closed its doors on September 22, 1931, and requested that a man be sent from the State Banking Department to check over the accounts.

Mr. Ed Custer, president of the bank, stated that the bank was solvent, and that all depositors would be paid.

Directors of the bank were: C. L. Wells, J. W. Eads, Ed

Custer, J. E. Robbins, R. S. Grantland, and L. S. Johnson, cashier.

R. W. Lindsey was pastor of Camp Wood Church in 1931.

Marvin Nelson won the old-time fiddlers' contest, sponsored by the V. A. class in Rocksprings, in November of 1931.

County officials to take the oath of office in Edwards County in 1931 were: J. L. Johnson, judge; S. A. Hough, clerk; J. F. Winans, tax assessor, R. H. Earwood, J. S. Brown, Dick Perkins, and E. T. Rucker, county commissioners; Ed Custer, sheriff; O. C. Pope, office deputy; Mrs. Kate Allen Lowrance, treasurer; L. V. McCaleb, surveyor; B. J. Stewart, county attorney.

J. U. Goodwin of Rocksprings was given the agency for Frigidaire for Edwards County and Real County in 1931.

R. C. Mann was granted a franchise to operate a bus line between Rocksprings and Kerrville in 1931. A round-trip ticket from Rocksprings to San Antonio sold for \$7.25.

Albert Joseph was placed in charge of the Phillip Joseph dry goods store in Rocksprings in 1931.

W. B. Hough operated a hardware store in Rocksprings in 1931.

Buck Bishop of Carta Valley reported catching a big female grey wolf on his ranch in February, 1931.

The new water well drilled in Rocksprings in 1931 had 167 feet of water in a ten-inch hole at 602 feet.

The Rocksprings Record was declared the official organ of the TAGRA in a meeting of the board of directors in April, 1931.

The Mohair industry was having its troubles in this year. Some lots of mohair brought twelve and twenty-two cents in 1931.

C. H. Gilmer of Rocksprings purchased the W. T. Day Insurance Agency in Rocksprings in April.

Jess Thurman purchased the 11,325-acre, B. W. Weaver 700 Springs Ranch, in 1931, for a consideration of \$11.50 per acre. A hotel in San Angelo, valued at \$70,000, was accepted as a part of the purchase price, the balance being paid in cash at the signing of the final papers.

Average price of mohair for the period beginning in 1919 and ending in 1929 was forty-nine cents for grown mohair, spring clip. The average price of kid hair and grown fleece for fall clip during the ten-year period was forty-

eight cents. Average price for spring clip of kid hair was fifty-seven cents. The average for fall clip of kid hair was fifty-eight cents.

The following is a quotation from the *Rocksprings Record* in 1931.

Some of the largest and best flavored strawberries we have seen this year were on display and for sale in Rocksprings in May, 1931, by Allan and Rogers Stovall of Vance. The Stovall brothers set one acre to strawberries in 1930 and the spring's production far exceeded expectations. The variety was known as the Texas Everbearing.

L. N. Meyers was pastor of the Rocksprings Methodist Church in 1913.

Efforts to strengthen mohair prices through a goat raiser's co-operative proved unsuccessful in the early '30's.

Monty Kirkland secured a franchise in 1931 to operate the Red and White store in Rocksprings.

The owners of the *Rocksprings Record* offered for sale a controlling interest in the business in 1931.

Chief Red Eagle from the Mescalera Indian Reservation in Ruidoso, New Mexico, was a guest at Camp Fawcett for Boy Scouts near Barksdale in July, 1931.

J. E. Robbins shipped twenty-one single-deck cars of goats from Camp Wood to J. W. Potter of Marathon. The lot included 4200 head, and sold for \$2.00.

In 1931, Jack Henry operated a barber shop in Rocksprings. Mr. Henry was a son-in-law of L. A. (Bud) Field, having married Ida Field several years before. Mr. Henry was also a trustee of the Rocksprings School, and took an active part in the civic affairs of the town.

In 1931, Ira and Drew Reavis of Utopia were visiting their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Reavis of Vance. One day, it was necessary that someone go to Camp Wood for supplies. Ira, Drew, Uncle Tom, and one other member of the family, got in an old Model T pickup and started out for the metropolis. The car had originally been a roadster, and had been converted into a pickup by removing the turtle end of the roadster and installing a lumber frame pickup bed in its place. Uncle Tom and Ira sat in the back with their feet hanging out the rear end of the bed. Drew sat in front and drove the car. At Lee Bottom, the bolts that held down the front end of the bed came loose, and the center of

gravity shifted to a spot about even with Uncle Tom and Ira. The result was that the bed up-ended, dumping its occupants out on the ground. That maneuver was unnoticed by the driver of the car, and he and his partner continued on down the road. Uncle Tom and Ira picked each other up, shook the dust from their clothes, and muttered a few words of disgust. There was nothing to do but sit down by the side of the road and wait for a passing car, unless Drew and his partner discovered their absence. In about twenty minutes, they saw the pickup coming back up the road. Drew explained that they had reached Barksdale before they noticed that Mr. Reavis and Ira were not in the pickup. Everybody had a good laugh, the pickup was patched up, and the party went on down to Camp Wood on their errand.

In 1931, Charlie Harrington was killed when his truck ran into the railing of a bridge. Charlie was a son of J. W. Harrington, who moved to the Canyon in the 1890's. Charlie had married Lena Stidham, a member of another family of early settlers in the area. Jane Cromeans, the widow of George Cromeans, died in 1931. George Cromeans will be remembered as one of the four sons of Grandma Cromeans who came to Edwards County in the early '80's. Jane Cromeans, or Aunt Jane, as she was affectionately called by her friends, was a pioneer woman of the old type: hardworking, conscientious, and full of hospitality.

In November, 1932, A. G. (Albert) Wells ran for county judge of Real County and was elected to the office. J. W. Gildart ran for the office of commissioner of precinct No. 3, recently vacated by Mr. Wells, and was elected. Jack Boales was elected sheriff over the incumbent, J. H. Baugh. Other officers who were re-elected were: Ora E. Tom, treasurer; Tom Godfold, assessor; George Field, clerk; and J. E. Friestman, county attorney.

In 1932, J. L. Johnson was elected as county judge of Edwards County. Claud Gilmer was elected county attorney, succeeding B. J. Stewart to that office. Ed Young was returned to the office of sheriff, after having been defeated for that office in 1930 by Ed Custer. Thomas Taylor was elected tax assessor, Mrs. J. E. Rogers, treasurer, and J. C. Pope, commissioner for precinct No. 2. H. E. Richards, Barksdale School Superintendent, was elected justice of the peace for precinct 2, and W. Y. Levensailor became the new constable for Barksdale.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the Democratic candidate in 1932 for the office of President of the United States, and was elected by an overwhelming majority of votes. Mr. Roosevelt, in his platform, had promised to help the farmer and the laboring man. In the ensuing years that he held the office, more progress was made in the way of social, economic, and political reform than had ever been made in a like period of time in the country's history. Immediately after assuming the office of president in January of 1933, he called Congress into special session and presented to that body his program of reform. Most of the suggestions made were passed on by the Congress, and became law in 1933. Emergency measures were passed to bring immediate relief to the country. All the banks of the country were closed for a period of time in order that an assessment of their financial condition could be made. Many of the banks were declared insolvent, and were never reopened. The National Bank of Rocksprings closed its doors permanently, as did the First State Bank of Camp Wood. The First State Bank of Leakey was declared solvent, but the directors paid off the depositors and stockholders, and did not reopen for business.

Commodities such as food and clothing were distributed through local agencies by the federal government, and many people who had previously been self-sufficient found themselves recipients of charity. Federal agencies, such as the WPA and the PWA, distributed money to counties for the relief of the unemployed. Most of the money that came to Edwards and Real County at first was used for the building and improving of roads. The young people of the country were helped directly and their parents indirectly by the NYA and the CCC agencies. The NYA helped students in the high schools and colleges, and the CCC placed boys and young men in camps over the country.

In 1932, Walter Field traded his Pulliam Creek ranch to M. C. Dobbs, for a farm near Big Springs, Texas. Soon after moving his family to the farm, Mr. Field was stricken with a case of measles, and died from complications that set in with the disease.

In 1932, George Perkins traded his ranch below Hackberry post office to members of the Dan Colwell family, for one of the Colwell ranches on the head of East Prong. Mr. Perkins moved his livestock to the East Prong ranch in the fall of 1932.

In the early '30's, A. G. Wells bought a 4000-acre ranch

on the Divide between Camp Wood and Leakey. His son-in-law, Claud Bain, was placed in charge of the ranch. Mr. Wells paid a reported price of \$4.00 per acre for the land.

In 1932, John Sparks owned the old Kelly O'Leary ranch on the head of Bullhead, and Lum Coalson was leasing the W. E. McCarson ranch north of Pecan Springs on Bullhead. Forrest Hatley owned the old Walker Sharp place above the John Sparks ranch.

A revival meeting was held in the Rocksprings Baptist Church. A report of the Mexican mission work during the meeting was made. Bro. Pierson, the missionary to the Latin-Americans, reported that during one service in which he preached to them, sixteen people were received as candidates for baptism. A Sunday School was organized for the Mexicans with Jose de la Rosa as superintendent and Mrs. Ida Henry appointed to oversee the work.

Pastors of the Rocksprings Baptist Church during the period between 1915 and 1932 were J. M. Hale, R. I. Woods, R. W. Lindsey, H. C. Suttle, and D. O. Blaisdale.

W C. (Uncle Bill) Lanman operated the old Mart Nelson garage in Barksdale in 1932. Mr. Lanman took care of the drive-in filling station in front, and Lee Nelson did mechanical work in the back of the building.

Miss Lilla Scott, Miss Mary Bell Carver, Mrs. Mary A. Lee, and Miss Lou Benedict taught the Dry Creek School in the period between 1924 and 1934, at which time the School was closed and the scholastics transferred to the Barksdale School. The Dry Creek school building had been built by private donations, and after the school was discontinued, the patrons voted to donate the building to Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Prince, who had boarded the schoolteacher for years.

In 1931, the writer went to the San Marcos Teacher's College to work on his degree. There he met Miss Nellie Roberts, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Roberts, of the Cedar Creek community near Barksdale. Miss Roberts was also doing work toward her degree. The two people at once became interested in each other, and saw each other often in the days that followed. The courtship culminated in a promise from Miss Roberts that the two would be wed the following May. The wedding took place in the home of Dr. and Mrs. B. G. Atlee of Normanna, Texas. Byron Roberts, a brother to the bride, was best man. Bro. J. B. Carrier, Baptist minister of Beeville, Texas, performed the wedding

ceremony. Dr. Atlee gave away the bride. A nice crowd of relatives and friends gathered to wish the young couple a happy married life. The newlyweds, soon after the wedding, went directly to the home of the groom on Bullhead above Vance, where they began the business of making a home.

L. N. Meyers was pastor of the Baptist Church in Rocksprings in 1932.

Rocksprings High School was granted, for the second time, membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and High Schools in 1932.

The voting strength of Edwards County in 1932 was 900.

A set of triplets was born in the Nueces Canyon in March, 1932. M. D. Taylor of Vance reported that Angelina, champion Angora doe, had given birth to three kids, whose total weight was seventeen pounds. Angelina was champion at the All-West Texas exposition in San Angelo in 1928 and 1929.

The salaries of Edwards County teachers were cut in 1932, from ten to twenty per cent. County officials' salaries were proportionately reduced.

In a sheriff's sale, 700 mutton goats brought \$.35 per head in May 1932.

The Rocksprings Lions Club was organized in 1931.

Lewis M. O'Dell, adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. O'Dell of Camp Eagle, was drowned in July, 1932, while attempting to rescue a seventeen-year-old boy from a swollen stream. The boy was marooned in a tree in the flooded stream, and O'Dell, attempting to make the rescue with a rope, became entangled and was carried to his death down the swollen stream.

850,000 pounds of mohair were sold in 1932, for from six to twenty-three cents per pound.

Byron Roberts, of Cedar Creek, killed a grey eagle, in 1932, that measured eight feet from wing tip to wing tip. Mr. Roberts shot the eagle from the top of a cliff, at a distance of 150 yards with a .22 rifle.

Wool sold for 15¼¢ in 1932.

O. C. Pope announced his candidacy for sheriff of Edwards County in 1932.

The First National Bank of Rocksprings was closed in December, 1932, for the purpose of reorganization.

Neville G. Smart was selected in 1932 by the Board of Directors of the National Farm Loan Association, to fill

the unexpired term of his father, Lon R. Smart, as secretary-treasurer of the association.

In February, 1933, a baby girl was born to the family of the writer. She was born at the home of her aunt, Mrs. L. M. Field, on Pulliam, and Dr. J. W. Eads was the attending physician. Mrs. John Leonard, a neighbor of the Field family, came in to render help, and Byron Roberts, brother of the baby's mother, was also present. The young lady was named Bonnye Grey; Bonnye for her paternal aunt, and Grey for her mother.

The writer was elected to teach in the Vance School for the 1933 school term. He was the principal, and Mrs. J. D. Johnson taught the lower grades. The principal's job paid \$75.00 per month for eight months. The depression was beginning to be keenly felt in the Canyon, and taxes were lowered, and even then were hard to collect. Teachers' salaries were cut to match the tax revenue.

In 1933, many people were on direct relief. Others got work on the various road projects that were going on over the county area. J. C. Pope was elected commissioner of precinct No. 2 in 1932, and was instrumental in getting federal funds for a number of projects in his precinct. In Real County, a project was approved to build a better road from Vance to Leakey by the way of Card Springs and Owl Hollow Mountain. Many men from Camp Wood worked on that project, and the prevailing wages were \$1.00 per day.

The price of goats had fallen to the low figure of 25¢ per pound. People bought big fat mutton goats for 50¢ per head, and canned them with their home canning outfits. Most farm families possessed a pressure cooker and a can sealer. Sometimes cans were used as many as three times before being discarded. The writer remembers that in 1933 his family and the Whatley family canned 1200 cans of farm produce of all kinds, including many cans of goat meat and beef.

The federal government inaugurated a program of killing livestock and paying the ranchmen a certain amount per head for animals slaughtered. Sheep brought \$1.00 per head and cattle \$12.00. The ranchmen were required to skin the back of sheep, and to present the pelt to the local office for payment on the animal killed. In some instances, owners were allowed to keep the carcasses of cows slaughtered, and if the beast were fat enough to use for food, the meat was canned for home consumption.

Mohair and wool were not selling for enough to pay the expense of production. Some ranchmen walked off and left their ranches and livestock to the banks. Others, who had plenty of good range, took advantage of the price slump and bought up thousands of goats at prices ranging from 25¢ to 50¢ per head.

In 1933, B. J. Stewart ran for the Texas senate. The senatorial district he wanted to represent in the Texas legislature included nine counties, and extended to El Paso on the west. In his campaign, Mr. Stewart used a technique that was new to political campaigning at the time. In fact, Mr. Stewart may have been the first candidate in Texas to use hillbilly music as a device to help gain a political office. Mr. Stewart employed Byron Roberts to make the itinerary with him. Mr. Roberts was an accomplished musician, quite adept at playing the guitar and singing the old folk songs of the west. Mr. Stewart's plan, when arriving in a town, was to have Mr. Roberts strike up a tune on his guitar, and sing a popular hillbilly melody. The music was usually sufficient to attract a good group of listeners. With an audience at hand, Mr. Stewart would then make his speech, outlining his platform, and declaring his merits as a potential officeholder.

The campaign lasted several weeks, but when the votes were counted after the Democratic primary, Mr. Stewart found that he lacked sufficient votes to win the senatorial seat. On the other hand, he and Mr. Roberts both had received some valuable experience. They had learned many things about political campaigning that might serve them to advantage later on.

In 1933, beer was legalized in Edwards County. The local option election on that issue was made possible by the passage of a federal law to that effect, and later on, the Eighteenth Amendment was repealed by the passage of the Twentieth Amendment to the federal constitution.

An election was held in Camp Wood in October, 1933, to legalize 3.2 beer, but failed to carry. A similar election in Barksdale also failed to carry.

Late in 1933, J. W. Gildart resigned as commissioner of precinct No. 3, of Real County, and T. T. Shockley was appointed by the Commissioners Court to serve out the unexpired term of Mr. Gildart. Another vacancy caused by the resignation of T. A. Godbold as county tax assessor, was filled by the appointment of Sally Godbold.

Mr. J. E. Thurman was county commissioner of precinct No. 3 from 1908 to 1922.

L. A. Clark of Rocksprings was elected president of the TAGRA in 1933, at the annual meeting, with President Sam F. Cooper presiding.

The rehabilitation of 1,000,000 acres of land in Edwards County began in 1933, under the federal cedar eradication program.

J. G. Palmer was pastor of the Rocksprings Methodist Church in 1933. James F. Black was pastor of the Church of Christ. H. C. Suttle was pastor of the Baptist Church.

Some mohair sold in 1933 for 45½¢ and 55¢ a pound. Wool sold for 32¢.

Edwards County people were saddened in August, 1933, by the death of J. E. (Uncle Jess) Thurman of Kickapoo Country.

Mrs. Annie L. Hough, wife of the late Judge Sam A. Hough, was appointed by the Edwards County Commissioners Court in 1933, to fill out the unexpired term of her husband as county clerk.

Prof. O. W. Peters, after serving the Rocksprings school system as superintendent for eight years, tendered his resignation in May, 1933, to enter private business. R. C. Donaho was elected to fill the position vacated by Mr. Peters.

Robert Halbert sold 1331 mutton goats out of the hair in 1933 at 30¢ per head.

The First State Bank of Rocksprings opened for business on March 16, 1933, after the bank holiday period declared by the federal government.

J. C. Pope, commissioner for precinct No. 2, disclosed in August, 1934, that \$2004 had been allocated to his precinct for repairing and rebuilding the Hackberry road.

Machinery was installed at the Devil's Sinkhole in 1934 to recover the vast deposits of bat guano known to be in the cave. Dr. Nance and associates of Dallas were in charge of the project.

The deposits had been worked once before, in 1919, on a small scale, by members of the Ogle family.

In 1934, Gus Haynes was awarded the contract to carry the mail from Barksdale to Hackberry. He bought the Alfred Nelson house in Barksdale, and moved his family there.

John Sawyers, native of the Nueces Canyon, was owner of the Iraan *Herald* in 1934. Mr. Sawyers had previously

been associate editor with Mr. Cook of the Ozona weekly paper.

L. N. Webb was seriously injured in May, 1934, while working on a road project on Highway 41 east of Rocksprings. The accident occurred when shifts were changed, and the crew going off thought that all the dynamite charges had been set off. About ten o'clock on the night shift, Mr. Webb drilled into a hole where a charge had been left unexploded. His face was badly lacerated and his eyes seriously damaged. He was taken to Rocksprings and placed under the care of Dr. Welch, the local physician.

Funeral services were held in Barksdale, May 1, 1934, for Keith Lanman, who was killed in an automobile collision near Pecos City. Funeral services were held in the Church of Christ at Barksdale, under the direction of Elder D. F. Draper of Fort Worth. Pallbearers were: Novie Chant, Burney Pope, Arthur Beck, Ben Daly, R. J. Nelson, and Allen Howerton.

Lloyd Patterson was superintendent of the Barksdale School in 1934. Terry Hill was superintendent at Camp Wood, and Mr. Donaho at Rocksprings.

1935 was the year of heavy floods on the Nueces River. The rises on the West Nueces were particularly high. On the West Prong, a cloudburst of more than twenty inches sent the river out of its banks, and flooded the valley from hill to hill. Twenty-six ranch homes were either washed away or were badly damaged by the raging flood. Thousands of head of livestock were lost, the property damage running into the millions of dollars. On the main Nueces, the floods were almost as bad. The river crossings were all washed out and remained impassable for days. The crossing at Barksdale was torn up so badly that cars had to be pulled across by trucks for about fifteen days. The old Nix house at Barksdale was partly under water, as were other houses in the vicinity.

In the early '30's, a tract of land on the Frio, about ten miles south of Leakey, was purchased and made into a state park. The park was named for John Nance Garner of Uvalde, who was at that time at the peak of his political career in Washington, having been elected as speaker of the house of the Congress of the United States on the Democratic ticket in 1934. Work was begun immediately on erecting cabins and building roads on the parksite. A Civilian Conservation Corps was established at the location, and the

young men and boys comprising the group were put to work, building roads, cutting bridle trails, and clearing a site for the location of the camp buildings. Much of the improvement that now exists at the park was made during the time when the CCC camp was in operation there.

Economic conditions were bad in 1935, but somewhat improved over those of the period immediately following the stock market crash of 1929. Pump priming by the federal government had put billions of dollars in circulation, but unemployment was still at a record peak. Various remedies were offered by armchair political strategists for relief, but no quick-return-to-prosperity plans were presented that proved to be practical. Among the many schemes proposed was the one offered by Dr. Townsend, of California. The plan was a kind of Utopian dream that would function to restore prosperity to the land by granting all people over sixty-five years of age a pension of \$200 a month. The plan worked well on paper. The program was to be financed by a national sales tax, and the revenue thus derived was calculated to set up a sort of a perpetual motion economic cycle in which the revenue would always exactly balance the expenditure, and in the process everybody would receive sufficient income to support him on the proper living standard. In its first premise, the plan claimed that by giving pensions to all people of sixty-five years of age, that group would be removed from the class of employed persons, and the jobs thus vacated would be open to younger people without employment. The second premise declared that a \$200 monthly income would be sufficient not only to support an elderly person, but to take care of quite a number of his immediate family, as well. The latter group would not then need jobs, thus creating more positions for people who wanted to work.

Of course, the old law of supply and demand would have to be repealed to make this new theory operate, but that was all right, too, because the old law never did work anyway — or so they said.

It was an ideal plan, and Mr. Townsend soon had millions of followers. But for the efforts of hard-headed lawmakers of the old economic philosophy, the plan might well have been foisted on the nation. The sponsors of the plan could never get enough support from the lawmakers in Congress to pass the proposal into law, and the idea soon was abandoned.

A more practical plan for economic stability was being

proposed locally by the Camp Wood *Press*. An editorial in the Camp Wood paper suggested a return to "the cow, the sow; and, the plow." A back-to-the-farm movement, so to speak. It was a very practical suggestion, too, because people were beginning to gather in the towns and cities where they could be more accessible to the relief offered by the federal, state, and local governments, and the farm population was thus depleted.

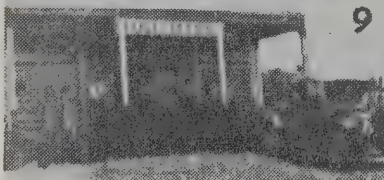
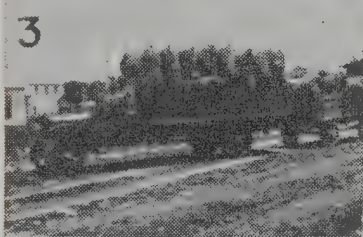
The merchants of Camp Wood sponsored what was called a "Trade's Day" and prizes were offered by the local "Retail Merchants' Association." On one such day, B. J. Stewart gave an address to a group gathered for the awarding of prizes. Mrs. R. M. Shirley of Barksdale was awarded a \$5.00 prize, Mrs. Jones, of Laguna, received \$5.00, Bud Anderson of Camp Wood, \$5.00, Oscar Werner, Camp Wood, \$5.00, and Joe McKee, of Sonora, \$5.00.

One of the work projects that was inaugurated in the Canyon was a sewing project set up in Camp Wood. The work was sponsored by the WPA, and was under the local supervision of Mrs. Vol Casey. A sewing room was provided and several sewing machines were purchased. A number of ladies over the Canyon were employed in making clothing for needy families, all material and equipment for the project being supplied from WPA funds administered by the county Commissioners Court.

On February 15, 1935, Ira L. Wheat died at his ranch home near Rocksprings. Mr. Wheat came to the Nueces Canyon in the early '80's and settled near Barksdale. He was elected the first sheriff of Edwards County when the county was organized in 1883. He served six terms, first at Leakey, and then at Rocksprings, after 1891, when the county seat was moved from Leakey to Rocksprings. Mr. Wheat was typical of the early frontier peace officer. At his death, Edwards County lost one of her most famous and useful citizens.

In 1935, W. E. McCarson left his Comstock mercantile business in charge of his son, Ed, and moved to his ranch in Real County. The ranch was located on the head of Bullhead, and had been previously under lease by Lum Coalson. Large stands of heart cedar timber covered parts of the McCarson ranch, and Mr. McCarson set about the business of cutting and marketing the timber.

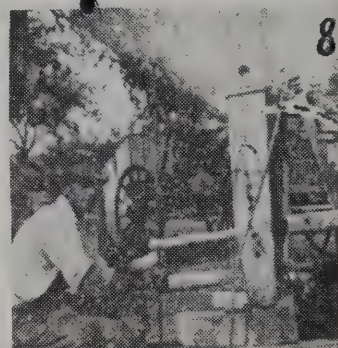
In 1935, T. B. (Bowden) Hutcherson died at his home in Camp Wood. Mr. Hutcherson's death came as a result



1. The Warren Puett store in Barksdale. Left to right: Frank Kelly, Puett boy, Warren Puett 2. Craig Uzzell, and Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Lewis in Barksdale drugstore, 1908. 3. Dud Edwards and his first truck, in Rocksprings 4. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Daly, with son Edward 5. Mr. and Mrs. Lum Thompson 6. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Perkins 7. J. L. Lockley and group in Rocksprings 8. Ewell Greer, Curtis Greer, and Buster Wallace 9. First Rocksprings post office 10. First Baptist Church building. Camp Meeting crowd. Brother Pearl, evangelist, 1917



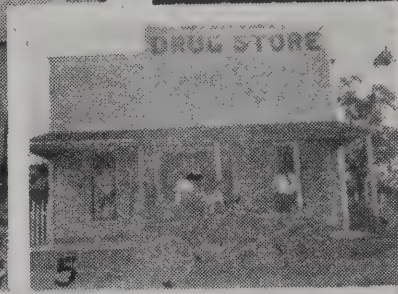
2



1. Buck Gardner, and companion 2. Ernest Casey, Marvin Uzzell, Leonard Lacey, Hattie Pope, Dora Bates, Vida May Wall, _____ 3. Dan Wood, Allie Ake Edwards, Henry Kite, Annie Blalack Hamrick 4. Mart Nelson 5. Leonard Lacey, Dora Bates, Oscar Bates, Lillie Reagan, Pete Wall, Della Wall, Vida Wall, Goldie Nelson, Mrs. Lacey, and pecan pickers 6. Hackberry School group: Rosa Colwell, Edith Merritt, _____, Nelson Hicks, Carl Hicks, Clarence Colwell, Grace Allbright, Erie Welch, Miss Tommy Brown 7. Cal Hamrick 8. Otto Sanderlin, drilling a well for the Stillwells at Barksdale 9. Ranchman's Hotel, Rocksprings 10. Named at random: Dud Edwards, Fred Maxon, W. E. McCarson and wife, R. T. Lewis and wife, Mrs. S. M. Bates, Josie Stovall, Lillian Barber, Amelia Uzzell, Hettie Stovall, Mabel Stovall, Mrs. Ed Greer, Tom Nelson, Willard Hatley, Clara Uzzell, Jim Grantland, wife and baby, Bertha Nelson, Gladys Patrick, Mrs. D. S. Stovall, Paul Powers and wife, Stella Lewis, Ida Lewis, Lula Stovall, Eula Sparks, Warren Hatley, Zenith Hancock



1. Baptizing scene, Hackberry, Texas. J. P. King, evangelist 2. Rocksprings baseball club, 1900 3. South Pulliam School group, Terry Hill School. 3rd row: Millard Thompson, Johnnie Benskin, Lena Harrington, Alta Thompson, Henry Kite, Zac Kelly. 2nd row: Joe Wood, Floyd Benskin, _____, B. J. Stewart, _____. 1st row: Buddie Pope, Roy Benskin, May Pope, Mamie Hamrick, Georgia Wood, Bessie Jernigan



1. Mrs. Grace Carper Powers. 1913 Barksdale School building in background 2. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lacey 3. Ray Eads 4. Vance Baptist Church 5. Rocksprings. first drugstore. Street Gilmer car in front 6. Bill Schmick and son in one of Barksdale's first cars 7. Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Reagan, Harvey, and Laura May 8. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dorn 9. Barksdale School group, 1920. 3rd row: Grace Gray, Della Wall, Miss Gibson, Florence Keeney, Ollie Wallace, _____, Minnie Brown, _____, Hattie Pope, Ellen Wallace, Cynthia Sawyers, Melvin Bates. 2nd row: Mamie Beck, Vermell Beck, Bonnie Belle Stovall, Doris Beck, Vermell Rhodes, Llewellyn Powers, _____. 1st row: Ben Daly, Lewis Pope, Amy Roberts, Pete Wall, Rogers Stovall, _____. 10. Edna Wheat in her first car, 1912 11. Vada Hext 12. Pulliam Creek group: Mary Wood, Bill Taylor, Ed Wood, Jim Taylor, Pearl Taylor, Fannie Field, Myrtle Young, Lee Blalack, Jim Wood, Sam Field, Iva Field, Lillie Wallace, Bessie Wallace, Lottie Taylor, May Pope:

of an old bullet wound in his back that he had received several years before, while hunting on his ranch on Camp Wood Creek. The accident occurred when Mr. Hutcherson and some of his boys were deer hunting, and Mr. Hutcherson was critically, though not fatally, wounded when a bullet from an accidentally discharged .30-.30 rifle entered his spine. After several months of convalescence, Mr. Hutcherson was sufficiently recovered from the injury to resume his place in his grocery business in Camp Wood. Mr. Hutcherson will be remembered as a son of W. D. Hutcherson, an early settler of Camp Wood Creek.

February 28, 1936, was the date of the rebuilding of the U. and N. railroad between Camp Wood and Uvalde. The road was badly damaged by the 1935 floods, and a crew of thirty men was put to work on the project of repairing the roadbed.

The trial of Domacio Franco, charged with the murder of Jose Cardova, was postponed in 1936 on account of the illness of one of the jurors, J. C. Blalack. The Mexican was later given a ten-year sentence.

In February, 1936, \$79,000 was appropriated for the grading and construction of thirty-three miles of road on Highway 55 between Rocksprings and Sonora.

On June 2, 1936, W. A. Varga was killed by a runaway mule at his home in Carta Valley. Mr. Varga was dragged about 300 yards when his feet caught in a rope hitched to the mules. Mr. Varga was one of the first people to operate a store in Carta Valley.

In June, 1936, S. O. Simpson applied for a permit to operate a liquor package store in Rocksprings.

Charlie Hamrick clerked in L. V. Wallace's store in 1936.

Ewe lambs were bringing 8¢ on the market in 1936.

The B. J. Stewart well, north of Barksdale, was drilled to a depth of 5500 feet.

J. F. Pierson was superintendent of Barksdale School in 1936. Plans were made, during that year, to add the eleventh grade, at the beginning of the 1937 school term.

R. H. Earwood sold his ranch holdings in Edwards County in 1936, and moved to Cline, Texas, where he had purchased a ranch.

Ralph Stewart was editor and owner of the *Messenger of Light* in Camp Wood in 1936.

Mr. and Mrs. Zac Gray taught in the Leakey School in 1936.

A WPA project gave the Camp Wood Park a complete overhauling in 1936. A well was drilled, walks were laid, trees were pruned, and a pump installed.

Rev. Claud Keeney was pastor of the Camp Wood Baptist Church in 1936. He gave the Commencement address to the spring graduating class of Barksdale High School in May of 1936.

M. D. Taylor (the Duke of Vance) made a trip to Dallas, Ft. Worth, and San Angelo, in May, 1936, in the interest of the Angora goat industry. He reported that he was royally treated in every place he visited.

For a six-year period ending 1936, the Rocksprings High School football team had played a total of fifty-two games, won thirty, tied eight, lost fourteen, running up a total score of 650 points against a total of 286 points for their opponents.

A good will banquet was given in the Barksdale High School auditorium in May, 1936, to honor the 1936 senior class. Music was furnished by "The Texas Ramblers" of San Antonio, and speeches were made by Claud Gilmer, Judge J. L. Johnson, and Colon Henderson. Toastmaster was Mr. Green of San Marcos State Teachers College.

Mohair sold in 1936 for sixty and seventy cents.

Rev. J. L. Atkinson was pastor of the Rocksprings Methodist Church in 1936.

Martha Ina Perkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Perkins, of Barksdale, died April 27, 1936, at the age of four years. Bro. Claud Keeney preached the funeral sermon.

O. C. Henderson announced for county judge of Edwards County in 1936.

A big barbecue and picnic dinner was given at the B. J. Stewart oil well on April 12, 1936. The crowd far exceeded the expectations of the promoters.

Flora Perkins and George Casey were married in Vance by Rev. M. S. Lackey, April 4, 1936.

The ranch home of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Sweeten on Bullhead was destroyed by fire in April, 1936. Everything was lost, including the spring clip of mohair.

L. A. Clark's barn was destroyed by fire at 2:15 on Tuesday morning of March 20, 1936. The barn was full of hay and feedstuff, and was a complete loss.

Emergency feed and crop loans were being made available by the federal government in 1936 to farmers and ranchmen over the county. Many Edwards County stockmen took

advantage of the low interest rate and long-term payment plan to buy feed for their livestock.

A WPA project in 1936 furnished the money to build a fence around the Barksdale School grounds, and to level off the uneven terrain. More land was acquired and put under fencing.

Edwards County went wet in an election in March of 1936. 233 votes were cast favoring the sale of alcoholic beverages, and ninety-three were cast against.

The A. L. Connells moved from Wimberly, Texas, in March, 1936, to Cedar Creek, where Mr. Connell had the old Fayette Taylor ranch leased.

Miss Elaine Ehardt was principal of the Barksdale School in 1936.

Aubrey Clark operated a Magnolia Service Station in Rocksprings in 1936, located in the H. Ray Building on Main Street.

Chick Rehm, special Ranger employed by the Edwards County Protective Association, arrived in Rocksprings on January 31, 1936, to assume his duties.

A cedar oil mill, under ownership of J. H. Richardson, started production in 1936.

The A. H. Rhea family came to the Canyon in 1915.

Stephenville won the regional football title from Rocksprings by an 18-0 score before a huge crowd on the local gridiron, December, 1936.

The Rev. Lewis L. Wilkins was the pastor of the Rocksprings Presbyterian Church in 1936.

A new highway from Rocksprings to Junction was opened in 1936.

Bill Taylor, who clerked in the Hough Drugstore for six years, resigned his job and went into business for himself. Mr. Taylor became dealer for Magnolia products, and had his business in the Rocksprings Motor Company building.

Dr. D. A. Harrison was a Rocksprings doctor in 1936.

The cedar eradication program began in Edwards County in 1936. Allotments from the federal government were based on the number of units of livestock on the ranch.

M. D. Taylor, of Vance, was president of TAGRA in 1937. He was in favor of the government cedar eradication program.

Edwards County Commissioners Court, in the January

meeting, settled claims of \$10,000 for road building and material to Brown-Cummer Company.

Mohair reached a price of seventy to eighty cents in February of 1937.

C. A. Tyler had the agency for Chrysler cars and International trucks in Rocksprings in 1937.

Juhan Jenkins was named to head the county committee in the new government soil conservation program in 1937.

A. A. (Gus) Story was employed in 1937 as Edwards County agent. His salary was set at \$1000 per year.

In June of 1936, Thomas L. Witt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Witt of Montell, was instantly killed when the automobile in which he was riding overturned near the mouth of the Canyon. Young Witt was in a car with J. Whitecotton, Jr., and Miss Smith, and was preparing to pass another car when a tire blew out on the Witt car, throwing it out of control. The car overturned several times, and was a complete wreck.

In August, 1936, Joe Reilly Hillman, son of Rev. Robert Hillman, pastor of the Leakey Baptist Church, drowned in the Frio River. The six-year-old child fell into a deep hole of water after he left his yard to play. The river ran near the parsonage.

J. B. Luton, Camp Wood ranchman, accidentally shot and killed himself on September 23, 1936. Mr. Luton was ranching about five miles east of Camp Wood, and had risen early in the morning to investigate a commotion at the chicken house. In some manner, Mr. Luton stumbled and discharged the gun he carried. Two bullets penetrated his chest.

Estimates of the damage done by the 1935 floods on the Nueces Canyon ran into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Nearly 200 pecan trees were washed away, and topsoil from several thousand acres of land was washed away. 5625 head of livestock were lost, and seventy-five miles of fence was destroyed by the running streams.

The town of Camp Wood was incorporated in 1936. B. J. Stewart became the town's first mayor. T. C. Hutcherson became city marshal, and J. R. Stewart, Z. T. Vernor, H. J. Dean, J. E. Robbins, and E. E. Gildart were elected aldermen.

The first pedigree to be given an Angora goat in America was given to a goat Mr. Landrum brought from the Pacific Coast in 1861. The document is now in the posses-

sion of the Landrum family. The goat was sold to William Landrum by Richard H. Peters of Atlanta, Georgia. He was out of a \$1000 buck Angora bought by Dr. J. B. Davis.

Miss Claudine Bourland of Rocksprings was secretary of the AAGRA in 1937.

Lannie Haynes sold his four-section ranch on Hackberry in August, 1937, to Burt Merritt. R. T. Craig sold his two-section ranch on Polecat, in 1937, to P. W. Howe and Son. T. A. Rowden was employed to take charge of the Pulliam property of Mr. Howe. Mr. Rowden was a relative of Oscar Hext, early settler in the Hackberry country.

Frank Taylor held a revival in the Church of Christ in Barksdale in July, 1937.

One of the best-beloved and well-known pioneer women of the Barksdale community died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. B. H. Whatley, on July 7, 1937. She was the widow of the late Rev. D. S. Stovall, pastor of the Barksdale Baptist Church during the period between 1907-1910. Mrs. Stovall died at 7:00 P.M. on the seventh day of the seventh month of 1937 at the age of sixty-seven.

Wool sold in 1937 for 36¢ per pound. Mohair brought sixty-five and eighty-five cents.

Alto Frio Baptist encampment opened at Leakey for its annual session on June 29, 1937. Speakers on the program were John L. Hill, Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. C. E. Madry, Richmond, Virginia; former governor Pat M. Neff, president of Baylor University; and Dr. S. C. Posey, Austin, Texas.

A revival meeting was held in the Rocksprings Baptist Church, by the local pastor, C. W. Pearson, in April, 1936.

Richardson and Henry operated a funeral home in Rocksprings in 1937.

Rocksprings had a \$40,000 fire in March, 1937. Business houses owned or rented by G. C. Fleischer, Monty Kirkland, Richardson and Henry, J. N. Lockley, Alamo Lumber Company, A. W. Owens, and Frank Brooks were either totally or partially destroyed by the fire at 3:00 A. M. Saturday. A party confined in the county jail discovered the fire and was finally able to attract the attention of Mr. J. L. Ballantyne at the hotel. Several cars were destroyed in the Fleischer garage. Fire departments from Kerrville and Junction came to help fight the blaze.

The cedar eradication program was in full swing in

1937. Some ranchmen also were destroying the prickly pear on their ranches.

C. A. Tyler was in the business of selling cars, trucks, refrigerators, and Vapo-gas, in 1937 in Rocksprings.

A \$14,000 bond was voted in 1938 by the Rocksprings Independent School District to supplement a federal grant of \$11,454 for the construction of a gymnasium for the Rocksprings High School.

Dr. A. D. Welch operated a private hospital in Rocksprings in 1938. Mrs. Mary Henry was postmistress for the town, and J. I. Henry was assistant postmaster.

A straw vote taken in July, 1938, revealed that Claud Gilmer would be the winner in the race for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives for the 86th district.

In 1938, W. O. Beck owned and operated the Blue Bonnet Cafe in Rocksprings.

J. N. Lockley of Rocksprings sold to C. A. Duncan a twelve-section ranch south of town, and bought a ranch near Montell for a reported price of \$6.00 per acre.

The seventeen-year record for the highest price ever paid for an Angora goat still stood in 1938. In 1921, Bob Davis of Rio Frio, Texas, paid \$3080 to John Ward for the stud billy named "Congressman Hudspeth." Six or seven other breeders entered bids of more than \$2500 on the goat.

C. H. Gilmer defeated Marvin Blackburn by a margin of more than 1000 votes in the runoff primary in the race for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives of the 86th district.

Bill Hampton of Rocksprings was killed in August, 1938, by the accidental discharge of a rifle. Young Hampton was the son of T. C. Hampton, prominent ranchman of the Divide.

In a struggle for a gun, L. G. Calentine and Early Garrett were both killed at the Ida Greer headquarters ranch. Mr. Calentine was foreman of the ranch and Mr. Garrett was a ranch hand.

J. L. Ballantyne made considerable improvement to his hotel property in Rocksprings in 1939.

A contract was made in May, 1938, for the sale of the eleven-section ranch of W. T. Anderson, at a reported price of \$13.00 per acre. The ranch was sold to Lloyd Mitchell of Marfa, and included the livestock on the ranch. The gross price was over \$100,000.

The Fifth United States Cavalry of Fort Clark, under

the command of Brigadier General Jonathan M. Wainwright, with 600 officers and men, spent two days in Rocksprings in April, 1939. The troop was on maneuvers, and was encamped on the grounds of the Edwards County Fair Association. One unit of sixty pack mules and the machine gun unit drew quite a good deal of attention, while the motor gun units, as well as the radio units, were among the gatherings visited by citizens at the grounds.

J. C. Noble was elected to the position of superintendent of the Rocksprings School system in 1939.

Dr. J. W. Eads, old-time Canyon doctor, died at the home of his son, Dr. R. A. Eads, in Uvalde, in December, 1938. Dr. Eads came to be known as "The Shepherd of the Hill," due to his unselfish devotion to the call of duty over the many years of his practice in the Canyon.

A revival meeting was held in the Barksdale Church of Christ in June, 1939, under the leadership of Bro. Gist of San Antonio, Texas.

J. H. Webb and Raymond Patrick sawed their way out of the Edwards County jail in Rocksprings in June 1939, and made their escape.

Rev. Carl Schlomach was pastor of the Camp Wood Baptist Church in 1939.

Neville Smart was secretary of the National Farm Loan Association in Edwards County in 1939.

Big rises on the Nueces River occurred in July, 1939, causing heavy damage to fences, and losses of livestock in the Canyon area.



CHAPTER X

The Prosperous 'Forties—1940-1950

371 men registered in Edwards County in October, 1940, under the new draft law. Young men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five were required to register.

A large barn on the Peterson Diamond Bar ranch, ten miles east of Rocksprings, was gutted by fire on October 11, 1940, with a reported loss of \$40,000.

J. F. Lackerd was pastor of the Rocksprings Methodist Church in 1940.

War clouds from Europe were drifting close to the United States in 1940.

The Rocksprings National Farm Loan Association observed its 21st anniversary in September, 1940. Edwards County had 212 members in the organization at that time. J. N. Whitworth was president of the association.

A north-south railroad between Corpus Christi to Roswell, New Mexico, through Uvalde, Rocksprings, and San Angelo, was proposed in 1940.

A highway program for a paved road between Rocksprings and Del Rio via Brackettville was begun in 1940.

Breeding of Palomino horses was widespread in Edwards County in 1940. The Hankins brothers, Hal and Charlie Peterson, were prominent breeders.

Rev. Cecil Pearson was called as pastor for the Rocksprings Baptist Church in August, 1940, to replace his father, who resigned.

A proposal to unite the Camp Wood and Vance Independent School districts in 1940 was denied by the Edwards County Board of Education.

The publication of a school paper for the Camp Wood School in 1940 was started by W. A. Parker. The printing plant of the *Messenger of Light*, formerly owned by J. R. Stewart, was acquired by the school. R. R. Rutherford was superintendent of the Camp Wood School.

The Barksdale baseball team won a victory over the Brackett club in August, 1940. The score was 4 to 2. That victory made the eighth consecutive victory for the local team.

C. A. Duncan purchased the C. W. Laughlin ranch southeast of Rocksprings in 1940. The 5760-acre ranch sold for a cash consideration of \$9000 and assumption of indebtedness on the place.

Lanora Garcia, a Mexican girl, eleven years of age, was instantly killed in a car wreck four miles west of Rocksprings in July, 1940.

Eugene Clubb was stung to death by wasps on July 18, 1940, while working on the Leona River. His companion, J. L. Carroll, escaped by jumping into the river.

B. M. Halbert, Jr., of Sonora, was elected president of the AAGBA in 1941.

The Painter Bus Lines, Inc., established service between Uvalde and Sonora via Barksdale and Rocksprings in January, 1941. The Kerrville Bus Company began service between Rocksprings and Kerrville.

Claud Gilmer sold his drug business in Rocksprings in 1940 to E. M. Francis.

D. E. Page became the new game warden of Edwards County, to succeed J. T. Swanson, who was transferred to Junction.

The Edwards County sewing room WPA project was closed in 1940. During the period of its operation under the supervision of Mrs. Lillie Howerton, an average of ten workers were employed, the payroll amounting to \$5222.78, and 8279 yards of material was furnished by the federal government. The garments made from the material were distributed to needy people over the county.

Frank H. Corder, of Rocksprings, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Corder, was listed in *Who's Who of American Colleges and Universities* in 1940.

M. E. Noble was given a two-year contract as superintendent of Rocksprings Schools in 1940.

A crossbred sheep and Angora goat was shown by Joe Sid Peterson, Rocksprings ranchman. The mother of the animal was a three-quarter-breed Ramboullet ewe.

D. W. Roberts of Cedar Creek announced his candidacy for the office of commissioner of precinct No. 2 in 1940. That was Mr. Roberts' second announcement of intention to run for that office, having done so before in 1938, when he received a very heavy vote just short of victory.

In April, 1940, Brown Epperson replaced an old windmill on his ranch for a new one. The old mill had been in operation for fifty years, having been installed by J. R.

Sweeten in 1888, over a well east of the courthouse square. The mill was an Aermotor, and served efficiently over a period of fifty years with very little repair.

The new modern Ballantyne Hotel opened in Rocksprings on April 30, 1940.

An old-time basket dinner was served on the Barksdale School grounds in May 1940. The local PTA announced that the day was set aside to dig post holes around the school-grounds. A large number of people from Rocksprings were present for the occasion. Mrs. E. M. Powers was the president of the local Parent-Teachers group.

In 1940, Lee Arnett visited in Rocksprings. Mr Arnett was an early settler in Rocksprings, and at one time worked for the old Rocksprings *Rustler* printing office. Mr. Arnett stated that at the time he worked for the *Rustler*, there were a few businesses in Rocksprings, among them being a livery stable, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a supply store, and two flourishing saloons.

The Uvalde and Northern Railroad was discontinued as a business in 1940, and the rails and tracks were taken up and sold. The rails were converted to defense use.

In September, 1941, Ivan B. Smart purchased Claud Gilmer's interest in the C. H. Gilmer Insurance Agency of Rocksprings, and began the operation of the business of insurance under the name of "The Rocksprings Insurance Agency." Neville Smart acquired the interest of Claud Gilmer and Ivan Smart in the Rocksprings Abstract Company, and continued to operate the business under that name.

J. T. Bartley and Elvie Moore purchased the interest of A. W. Owen in the O. and M. Store in Rocksprings. The store was operated then under the new name of Bartley and Moore, or the B. and M. Store.

Work was begun in 1941 for a new city hall for the town of Rocksprings.

Rocksprings was host to the TAGRA in 1941.

Frank Raymond Sweeten, son of Frank Sweeten of Rocksprings, was killed in August, 1941, by the accidental discharge of a gun, while in the act of shooting at a hawk on his father's ranch.

Ned Dunbar was elected president of the Edwards County Fair Association in 1941. With him were elected H. C. Babb, vice-president, and Ivan B. Smart, secretary.

In 1942, the Barksdale Baptist Church, under the leadership of its pastor, Julius P. King, erected a new native rock

veneer building on the site of the old lumber building, replacing that structure which was put up in 1906. The work was begun under contract to H. L. Wood of Barksdale, and finished by members of the local congregation. The building was complete with foyer and bell tower. In 1944, pews were purchased and installed in the new building, and pulpit furniture was given to the church by the Stovall children at the same time, and dedicated to the memory of Rev. and Mrs. D. S. Stovall, in an impressive ceremony directed by the church's pastor, Bro. King.

W. W. Warren operated the first store in Rocksprings, and bought much of the wool and mohair that was raised in the vicinity.

Rev. J. C. Cohen, Jewish revivalist and singer, came to Rocksprings in June, 1941, to assist in a revival meeting in the local Baptist Church.

Clinton C. Perkins, son of John Perkins, was the first boy to be inducted into the armed services from Hackberry in World War II. Linden Colwell and J. E. Shackelford, from the Hackberry community, later joined the services.

The First State Bank of Rocksprings closed in December, 1942, and all deposits transferred to the Del Rio Bank and Trust Company. The bank was in a solvent condition.

In an election held in November, 1942, to vote on the proposition of consolidating the Vance and Barksdale School districts, 159 votes were cast for consolidation and thirty-five votes against the proposal.

In November, 1942, 220 Edwards County boys were listed in the armed services.

Gas rationing began in Edwards County in November, 1942. Coffee rationing began November 19 of that same year.

Frank Stockman, age thirty-nine, was killed by a stroke of lightning which struck him and his horse near Vance in October, 1942. The accident occurred near the old Lanny Haynes ranch, as Stockman was riding his horse across the gravel bar on the East Nueces.

Rocksprings School scrap drive in October, 1942, netted 100,000 pounds of scrap iron.

L. M. Boze, of Melvin, Texas, bought most of the stock in the First State Bank of Rocksprings in September, 1942.

G. E. Rigby, county auditor, reported that Edwards County was in good financial condition in 1942, and that warrants were cashable without discount.

420 goats were scheduled to be auctioned in the annual

goat show and sale to be held in Rocksprings in 1942.

Twelve-months' wool sold for 46¢ in 1942.

Moses Sinclair Lackey passed away at the home of his son, O. L. Lackey, of Vance, in July, 1943, at the age of eighty-four. Mr. Lackey was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1883. He was state missionary for a number of years, traveling over the state with horse and buggy.

Scrap rubber was being collected in Edwards County in 1942 to aid in the war effort. 170,000 pounds had been collected by June 19, 1942.

A cutting affray occurred in the balcony of the O. and S. theater in Rocksprings, May 11, 1942, in which three Negroes, a man and two women, were somewhat slashed, the man receiving a severe stab in the left side which necessitated his removal to the Welch Hospital.

WPA work was discontinued in Edwards County in March, 1942, by order of the Commissioners Court.

V. O. Harp was superintendent of the Barksdale School from 1939 to 1942.

The TAGRA voted on and passed a motion made by M. D. Taylor of Vance in their 1942 meeting to invest \$2500 of the association's funds in war bonds.

Claud Gilmer was one of the three leading candidates in the race for the speaker of the house of representatives of the state legislature in 1943. Dallas Blankenship and H. A. Hull were his leading opponents in the race. The speakership finally went to Mr. Gilmer, which was a very unusual honor both to him and to the people he represented.

The Red Cross quota for Edwards County in 1943 was exceeded by \$331, a total of \$1431 having been contributed.

Prof. and Mrs. Terry Hill received the sad news in April, 1943, that their son Wright had succumbed to the ravages of a tropical fever contracted while in the service of the United States armed forces in the South Pacific. Later reports gave the cause of young Hill's death as gunshot wounds received in battle.

Alvin Swindell was pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church in 1943. M. O. Daly was the Church of Christ minister, and Ralph Slagle, the Methodist pastor.

The People's State Bank of Rocksprings opened for business in 1943. The directors of the bank were: C. H. Gilmer, Jesse T. Evans, Tom Dragoo, L. B. Wardlaw, and J. A. Miller. Mr. Gilmer was selected as president and J. A. Miller was vice-president and cashier.

Edwards County's quota of \$18,500 in the second war loan drive of 1943 was reached early in the campaign.

A revival meeting was held in the Rocksprings Baptist Church in April, 1943, with Rev. M. M. Fulmer, pastor of the Uvalde Baptist Church, doing the preaching.

Jesse W. Hill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Hill of Barksdale, was killed by a gunshot wound while in the line of duty on the Pacific front. Earlier reports stated that young Hill had died of a tropical fever.

During the opening day of the People's State Bank of Rocksprings, \$104,600 was deposited in the bank.

John Watson Bryson, fifteen-year-old son of Mr. M. D. Taylor of Vance, died about 11:00 o'clock Saturday night of May 29, 1943, while being taken to a Uvalde hospital. The little fellow had suffered a fatal accident late Saturday afternoon, when his gun was accidentally discharged while he was climbing a tree. A bullet from a .30-.30 caliber Savage rifle caused the fatal wound.

Friday afternoon of May 28, 1943, Rev. Charles Haley Owens, age thirty-three, Assembly of God minister, was killed instantly by the discharge of a gun, the gun's load entering the man's stomach. Mr. Owens was going through a bump gate on the Bullhead road above Vance when the accident occurred. The gun was jostled as the car passed through the gate, and in an effort to keep the gun from falling, Mr. Owens caused the shotgun to be discharged.

J. C. Pope, old-time resident of Barksdale, died in a Uvalde hospital June 23, 1943. Mr. Pope was county commissioner of precinct No. 2 at his death, and his stepson, Millard Thompson, was appointed by the court to fill out the unexpired term.

Highway 41 between Rocksprings and Del Rio received its first top coat in July, 1943. Local road crews were at the same time preparing Highway 55 between Rocksprings and Barksdale for topping.

The voters of the Barksdale Independent School District voted in 1943 to increase the school tax rate to \$1.00 on the \$100 assessed valuation.

Lee Wilson, of Barksdale, was reported, in August, 1943, to have been killed while serving in the armed services. Mr. Wilson was a chief carpenter's mate attached to the U. S. Naval Reserves.

The Street Gilmer home in Rocksprings was badly damaged by fire in August, 1943. The Gilmer home was one of

the first lumber houses to be built in Rocksprings; it is said that the lumber used in its construction was hauled from Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Hill taught in the Rocksprings School in 1943. The war bond quota for Edwards County in 1943 was \$27,000.

Farm Security loans were made available to Edwards County farmers and ranchmen in 1943.

C. H. Gilmer moved to Kerrville in 1943, where he set up a law practice.

A rush to the county clerk's office to record brands was made in 1943. Registration of all brands was required under a law passed by the Texas Legislature in their last session.

Ration book No. 8 was issued to Edwards County families in October, 1943.

The People's State Bank of Rocksprings in 1943 showed assets of \$323,754.23.

After serving the residents of the Canyon for more than fifty years, the Laguna post office was closed in November, 1943, by order of the Post Office Department in Washington, D. C. Mrs. Joe Sharpless was the incumbent postmistress at the time of the office's closing.

A report was received in Rocksprings in December, 1943, that Tirsco Falcon Carillo had been killed in action in Italy.

Neal Jernigan sold his ranch two miles north of Barksdale, in 1943, to W. A. Pease.

The city of Rocksprings installed a new pump over one of its water wells in 1944. The pump was a Pomona turbine with a capacity of sixty gallons per minute.

Lt. Donald D. Owens, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Owens, was killed in a plane crash at Saratoga, Florida, in March, 1944.

Roscoe Simon, aged twenty-two, was found dead in a tent on Hackberry in March, 1944, by Gus Wallace, a neighbor, who happened to be passing by the tent. A .30-.30 caliber rifle was found on the floor, and five cartridges were found nearby, indicating that Mr. Simon must have been accidentally killed while cleaning his gun.

Lon R. Smart, Sr., died at his home in Rocksprings in March, 1944. Mr. Smart's father was one of the founders of the town of Rocksprings, the family having moved to Edwards County in 1889. Mr. Smart was a banker and businessman during most of his lifetime.

Directors elected for the TAGRA in 1944 were: C. A. Pepper, Bob Davis, Fred Earwood, B. M. Halbert, Jr., Sam F. Cooper, Seaton Prentice, T. C. Hampton, John A. Ward, Jr., C. F. Briggs, Armer Earwood, W. H. Rawlings, M. A. Cowsert, J. F. Donley, O. O. Cowsert, Brooks Sweeten, Robert Reed, G. A. Bonner, Marvin Skaggs, H. R. Sites, Joe B. Ross, Joe M. Gardner, W. S. Orr, Arthur Davis, and Jack Turner. Sam F. Cooper was elected president, and Mrs. Thomas Taylor, secretary.

Lt. Reba Whittle, nurse in the army air service, was taken prisoner by the German forces in 1944. It was at first thought that she had been killed, when a mercy ship in which she was traveling, crashed.

Nemo Webb owned and operated a mercantile business in the old C. S. Greer store building in Barksdale in 1944.

J. M. Lauderdale, at one time coach in the Rocksprings High School, and affectionately known as "Coach," was reported killed in action on the Italian front in December, 1944.

Corp. James T. Brown of Camp Wood, was killed in action on the western front on November 29, 1944.

Douglas Roberts, aged thirty-five, died quite suddenly at the Allan Stovall ranch on Cedar Creek in March, 1945.

It was reported in April, 1945, that a mule colt was born to a mare mule on the J. L. Epperson ranch near Rocksprings. This is a very unusual occurrence, happening perhaps once in a million births.

Dan McKnight purchased the Hough Drugstore in 1945.

T. A. Rowden, Jr., of Barksdale, received the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1945. Young Rowden flew sixty aerial missions over the Marianas, Palau, the Philippines, and Iwo Jima in the South Pacific war area.

Leonard D. Lacey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lacey, of Barksdale, received the Bronze Star medal in 1945 for meritorious service in the Pacific theatre of action.

J. W. Richardson sold his Mesa Courts in Rocksprings in 1945 to A. E. Brown of Abilene.

Dan Roberts was severely injured in September, 1945, when he fell some thirty feet from a tree on his ranch. Mr. Roberts had climbed a tree to get some limbs for one of the goats in his pen. His foot slipped and he fell, landing on his face and shoulders. He was taken to Rocksprings and placed under the care of Dr. Robinson.

John U. Goodwin announced his intentions, in Decem-

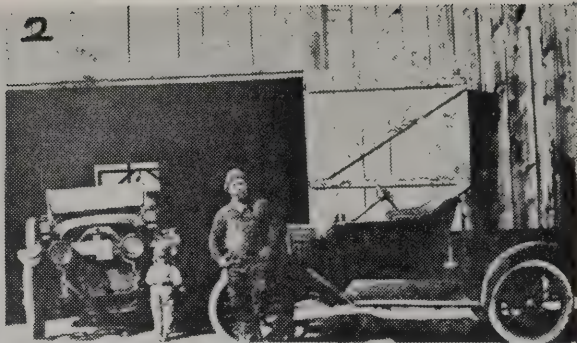


1. Standing: Molly Wilson, Mrs. Cody Roberts, Laura Reeves, Mrs. Joe Chant, Mrs. Lydia Crider. Kneeling: George Chant, Joe Chant, and his two boys 2. The Neal Jernigan family 3. Barksdale School basketball team, 1928: Ed Greer, Allison George, Novie Chant, Elmer Tally, Keith Lanman, Ulmont Blalack, Douglas Roberts 4. Joe Connell, Ammon Connell, George Chapman, and Willard Hatley 5. W. E. Hatley and granddaughter 6. R. J. and Jack Jernigan at Neal Jernigan's Barksdale ranch 7. O. C. Pope and Ed Custer 8. First car registered in Edwards County 9. The Neal Jernigan family and governess, Georgia Wood 10. Ruby Rogers and Dorothy Buswell 11. The Buck Bishop family: Leo, J. C., Teel, Ned, Mr. and Mrs. Buck Bishop 12. Barksdale School group. 1st row: Ellen Wallace, Mary Daly, Lula Taylor, Mattie Allison, Thelma Sweeten, Mabel Pope, Hallie Perkins, Mamie Beck, Nellie Roberts, Vermell Beck, Vermell Rhodes, Bonnie Belle Stovall, Llewellyn Powers, Pete Wall. 2nd row: Myrtle Pope, Margie Blalack, Ollie Wallace, Della Wall, Annie Pope, Nelda Roberts, Minnie Brown, _____, Florence Keeney, Rogers Stovall, Lewis Pope, Amy Roberts. 3rd row: Ewell Greer, George Casey, Byron Roberts, Roger Rhodes, Melvin Bates, Warren Hatley, Douglas Roberts, Ben Daly, Alvin Perkins, Dan Kirchner, Oswald Perkins, Tots Pope, J. C. Smith, Carl Shockley, Ed Greer. Raymond Taylor, Gladys Patrick, _____, Roy Taylor with suspenders

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1. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chant 2. Mart Nelson in front of his Barksdale garage-blacksmith shop 3. Mr. and Mrs. Tom McGowan, and Jasper Taylor 4. Rocksprings Baptist Church. Brother Burrell in foreground 5. Betty and Jo B. Sawyers 6. Hackberry baseball team: T. J. Burleson, Ike Welch, W. A. Merritt, W. A. Hicks, _____, B. E. Merritt, L. E. Welch, _____, _____ 7. Barksdale School group: _____, Mamie Beck, Mabel Pope, Minnie Rhodes, Hallie Perkins, Elsie Pope, Myrtle Pope, Nellie Roberts, Lula Stovall, Vermell Beck. Seated: Bonnie Belle Stovall, Sabina Carbajal, Nelson, _____, Ivy Howerton, Burney Pope, center 8. Barksdale ball game, 1918. Old jailhouse in background 9. The Dennis Page store in Barksdale. Mary Daly, Ammon Pope, others unknown 10. Barksdale School group: Miss Lenora Friday, teacher. 3rd row: Edith Rhodes, _____, Elsie Pope, _____, Hallie Perkins, _____, _____, _____ 2nd row: _____, _____, Snooks Powers, Allen Howerton, _____, Ivy Howerton, Jim Tom Brown, Burney Pope. 1st row: _____, _____, Buster Wallace, _____, Allison George, _____



1. Rocksprings School group, 1924: Lacey boy, Arthur Strackbein, W. Cloudt, Barrows girl, Anna Dell Ray, Johnson boy, Snooter Bardwell, Buzz Cloudt, Jensie Nelson, Wayne Cloudt. 2nd row: _____, Jack Brown, _____, Fern Strackbein, Billings girl, Johnson boy, Alga B. Dollahite, _____, Clyde Winans, Winona Cloudt, _____, Georgie May Ballantyne, Arthur Aiken. 3rd row: Mrs. Griffith, Bessie Zuberbeiler, Sybil Fred, _____, Strackbein girl, Gay Franks, _____, _____, Mona Griffith, Dan Griffith, _____, _____, Miss Fisk. 4th row: Fred Wilburn, Roy Johnson, _____, Billings boy, _____, _____, Sybil Smart, Snaap Bean, Olds Cowsert, Mr. Griffith 2. Luke and Travis Stillwell 3. Mrs. Cody Roberts and grandson, Walter Chant 4. Camp Wood School ball team: Carl Shockley, coach, Maurice Merritt, Frank Powers, Keith Lanman, Forace Burleson, Clarence Vernor, Frank Anderson, Sid Merritt, _____ 5. Bro. Tex Stevens and wife, with R. J. and Jack Jernigan 6. Bowden Hutcherson and son, Carl, in their store in Camp Wood 7. Early Barksdale School ball club. The Stovalls' first home in Barksdale in background 8. Bailey, Ben Amos, and Eva Lee Eppler 9. Five generations: Narcissus Pennington, Joe Connell, Cordie Pope, Hattie Colwell, Linden Colwell 10. Rocksprings, following the tornado of 1927 11. Standing: Dan Kirchner, Mrs. W. B. Kirchner, Mrs. Ernest Kirchner, Rufus Kirchner, Mrs. Carrie Garner. Seated: C. H. Kirchner



1. Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Burleson and Glyndell 2. Allen Howerton 3. The Z. T. Vernor family: Z. T. Vernor, Parilee, Jay, Will, Russell, Tom, Bell, Ross, and Ruby 4. Jeff McFatter 5. Bud Reagan, and daughter Gabbie 6. Mrs. W. E. Hatley, at old Winans house on Cedar Creek 7. The old Welty house on Cedar Creek. Annie Hamrick and Luetta Hamrick on left; Dude Covey and Nannie Franks 8. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Roberts, and Mr. and Mrs. Allan Stovall, with Bonnye Grey. 9. Zac Eppler, with "Roosevelt" and "Willkie" 10. The Charlie Sweeten family 11. The Beck family. Left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Beck, Mr. and Mrs. (Lily) Bud Howerton, Mr. and Mrs. (Nita) Jess Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Boss Beck 12. Champion football team, Rocksprings High School, 1936

ber of 1945, of opening a Man's Shop in Rocksprings in his location in the theatre building.

A movement was started in January, 1945, to build a memorial hall in Rocksprings for those who served in World War II. Coy Dillard was co-ordinator of the plan, and funds for building the memorial soon poured in from many sources.

Louie Babb purchased the Angora Theatre in Rocksprings from G. F. Lee in February, 1946.

The ceniza, or purple sage, was chosen as the official shrub of Edwards County in 1946, when plans were discussed for landscaping the proposed new memorial building.

A good flow of oil was reported from a shallow well on the Jap Holman ranch in Edwards County in 1946.

On May 3, 1946, the Barksdale School presented something new in the way of a school program. It was an all-day affair, and was called the Nueces Canyon Day. The school had prepared exhibits of various kinds in each classroom, the new movie projector was tried out, and dinner was served on the grounds. At 1:00 P.M., everyone joined in a parade, Barksdale and Camp Wood playing baseball until 4:00, and the day being rounded off with a program at 8:00 P.M., titled "The Cavalcade of the Nueces Canyon." The crowning of the May Queen was an important part of the festivities.

An issue of street and water bonds carried in Rocksprings, in July, 1946, by a big majority.

The Claud Gilmer family moved back to Rocksprings in July, 1946, after having lived in Kerrville for a period of three years.

There follows a list of the heroes of World Wars I and II from Edwards County and the Nueces Canyon area.

Sixteen men gave their lives in the services of their country while serving in the armed forces of the United States in World Wars I and II. An appropriate monument has been erected to the memory of Edwards County's honored dead, and the following names are inscribed on the marble sarcophagus:

Sam Henry Field, Pvt., 317th Field Remount Squadron, October 5, 1893-September 21, 1918. Died in Brest, France. Buried at Barksdale, Texas.

William F. Bourland, Capt., Co. C, 1st Engineers, November 2, 1889-October 9, 1918. Killed in action in France. Buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Virgil C. Lacey, Pvt., Co. C, 16th Infr. Div., December 31,

1892-November 1, 1918. Killed in Sedan offensive. Buried at Barksdale, Texas.

Neil Garrett, Corp., Co. D, 123 Bat., 40th Div., May 20, 1929-November 8, 1951. Killed in action in Korea. Buried in Utopia, Texas.

Tirso F. Carillo, Pfc., 36 Infr. Div., January 4, 1922-November 25, 1945. Killed in battle in North Africa.

James Thomas Brown, Pfc., Co. B, 121st Cav. Remount Sqd., March 5, 1910-November 29, 1944. Killed at Erkhart Miller, France. Buried at Barksdale, Texas.

Lee Arthur Wilson, c/carp mate, 24th Const. Brig., August 20, 1899-August 8, 1942. Killed in battle in New Guinea. Buried at Fort McKinley, Manila, P. I.

Milton William Babb, Seaman 2/cl., SS Jack Carnes, August 28, 1923-August 29, 1942. Lost at sea in South Atlantic.

James Calvin Hamrick, Pvt., 84 Co. 3rd Bat. 6th Reg. 4th Bg. 2nd Div. Reg., February 5, 1894-November 4, 1918. Killed in France. Buried at Barksdale, Texas.

Lee Garth Ross, M/sgt., Air Force sq. 5302, May 16, 1914-January 20, 1945. Killed in crash at Hunter Field, Georgia. Buried at Rocksprings, Texas.

Robert Linden Colwell, Pvt., M. Co. 3rd Brig. 4th Div., June 1, 1924-June 15, 1944. Killed in Saipan Landing. Burial place unknown.

James Little Epperson, Jr., Corp., Co. E, 2nd Bat. 3rd Div., September 29, 1921-July 22, 1944. Killed in action in Guam. Buried at Rocksprings, Texas.

Marvin Judson Smith, 2nd Lieut., U. S. Air Force, August 11, 1916-September 27, 1942. Killed in crash off Florida, Gulf of Mexico.

Jesse Wright Hill, Pfc., Signal Corps, (radar), October 26, 1920-March 9, 1943. Died in South Pacific. Buried at Barksdale, Texas.

Donnie Dwight Owens, 2nd Lieut., 303rd Fighters Sqdn., March 2, 1922-March 15, 1944. Died in crash at Sarasota, Florida. Buried at Rocksprings, Texas.

The men who served in the armed forces of the United States in World War II and the Korean War are listed below.

More than 200 Edwards County boys served in the United States armed services during World War II and the Korean War. They were:

James Leslie Taylor, apprentice seaman; Louis H. Honeycutt, pvt., army medical corps; Floyd A. Cantrell, pvt., army; Horace D. Brown, cpl., army; Thomas C. Taylor, pvt.,

army; V. G. Armstrong, automotive engineer operator, army; Alva Garrett, machinist first mate, USN; Bonifacio C. Perez, pvt., army; Margarito B. Carbajal, pvt., army; Arthur P. Shanklin, staff sergeant, AAF; Vicente Miguel Perez, apprentice seaman, USN; Wm. Floyd Benskin, pvt.; Edward Henry Draper, carpenter's mate, USN; Frank H. Corder, army; Lonnie Morriss, pvt., army; John H. Laurie, sgt., army; Clinton L. Blair, engineers corps, army; Ira C. Roberts, pfc., army; Jesus O. Martinez, pvt., army military police; Virgil Leroy Jorgensen, radio technician 1/c, coast guard; Lawrence M. Colwell, pvt., army; Howard Hatley, pvt., engineers utility company, army; Lewis R. Sessom, pfc., army; Tiburcio S. Aguilar, T/sgt., army; James A. Rudasil, field artillery technician; Chas. G. Recio, pvt., army; Anthony W. Cloudt, sgt., AAF; Jesse C. Kassler, S/sgt., AAF; Francisco Lombrano, pfc., armored artillery, army; William F. Felts, corp., marine corps; James Sneed Noble, pfc., marine corps; Elvino M. Angles, pfc., army; Clyde E. Hocker, cpl., quartermaster truck, army; Jose Ortiz, pfc., army; Raymond W. Cloudt, S/sgt., army; Joe E. Buswell, tech. 5, army; Antonio Gonzales, pfc., army; Eduardo A. Gonzales, sgt., army; Wesley T. Hubble, tech 14, army; William Doc Hubble, apprentice seaman, USN; Alejandro L. Aguerre, pfc., army; Robert D. Field, pvt., army; Edward C. Miller, aviation cadet AAF, capt., AAF; Eugene Carlisle, pfc., AAF; Alonzo A. Cowsert, S/sgt., M. D., army; Leslie Elmo Connell, seaman 2/c, USN; Robert John Roach, carp. mate 3/c, USN; Louis Alfred Fritz, carp. mate 1/c, USN; Jesse May Stewart, ship's cook, USN; Raymond E. Adams, pvt., army; Sproul A. Morriss, pfc., army; James L. Levensailor, t/5, army; John Honnicutt, sgt., army; John U. Goodwin, 1st. sgt., AAF; Edward Roy Alston, 3/c storekeeper, USN; Howard Wright Davis, gunner's mate 2/c, USN; Alvin J. Wallace, tech/5, army; Wiley E. Draper, sgt., army; Hershel H. Foley, tech/5, army; Felipe Benavides, pfc., army; T. K. Jones, cpl., army; Otheil J. Eulund, capt., army; Augustus A. Storey, capt., army; Earl Dean Lomax, quartermaster 2/c, USN; Milburn Taylor, carp. mate 2/c, USN; C. W. Williams, pfc., army; Robert P. Taylor, cpl., AAF; Clarence L. Matthews, tech/5, army; Willie F. Adams, sgt., AAF; Robert W. Cowsert, cpl., marine corps.; James Calvin Hatley, seaman 1/c, USN; Louie Wright Craig, watertender 3/c, USN; Pascual C. Perez, pfc., army; Ray Lacey, S/sgt., army; Eric Lomax, seaman 1/c, USN; Charles Carson Creech, ship's cook 2/c, USN; Lon R. Smart,

Jr., pfc., AAF; Claud C. Dobbs, S/sgt., AAC; Milton H. Lacey, sgt., AAF; Snap F. Bean, T/sgt., AAF; Gus Ross, motor machinist mate 2/c, coast guard; Billie F. Owens, aviation cadet, army; Hansford H. Bean, sgt., AAF; Jesse R. Connell, cpl., army; Jose M. Franco, pfc., army; Jack T. Mayes, sgt., AAF; P. F. Numbrano, T/5, army; T. A. Ralston, Jr., cpl., army; Robert F. Powers, T/4, army; John R. Gardner, T/4, army; Robert Raymond Gahurler, seaman 1/c, USN; James Edwin Smith, seaman 1/c, USN; Denman L. Cloudt, cpl., AAF; Robert J. Jernigan, sgt., AAF; Billie Owens, 1st lieut., AAF; Glen D. Benskin, capt., army; Howard C. Wood, cpl., army; Leonard D. Lacey, pfc., army; James L. Green, 1st lieut., signal corps, army; Thomas Taylor Henderson, Jr., pvt., army; Tommy C. Barnes, Jr., cpl., army; Tom W. Epperson, S/sgt., army; Warren Alvin Collins, seaman 1/c, USN; Russell M. Lacey, T/5, army; Richard M. Hutt, cpl., signal corps, army; Richard W. Craig, T/5, army; Howard W. Cottle, sgt., AAF; Ruby I. Guthrie, capt., army; James D. Weaver, flight officer, AAF; Crawford W. Mitchell, sgt., army; Lawrence A. Sargent, pfc., army; Renfro Dale Hubbles, seaman 1/c, USN; James L. Lockley, sgt., AAF; William E. Bell, M/sgt., AAF; James L. Greer, Jr., 1st lieut., army; Crecincio Martinez Angeles, storekeeper, USN; William Edward Sharp, Jr., seaman 2/c, USN; Robert W. Shepperd, Tech/5, army; Thomas L. Mitchell, Jr., pfc., army; Sam W. Lovelady, cpl., AAF; Walter C. Parks, pfc., army; Hayden Fisher Jones, elec. mate 2/c, USN; Arthur Andrew Creech, seaman 2/c, USN; Virgil E. Smith, pvt., army; Billie Bert Brown, cpl., marine corps; Sidney Denton Stephens, cpl., marine corps; Wm. N. Blakeney, capt., army; Sam A. Hough, Jr., 1st lieut., AAF; Horace D. Brown, capt., army; Charles Willis Carson, seaman 1/c, USN; John L. Dibrell III, seaman 1/c, USN; Silverio U. Ansiro, pfc., army; Alvie Tucker, pfc., army; Harvey Charles Clicker, Jr., seaman 1/c, USN; Robert D. Taylor, seaman 1/c, USN; William F. Howell, T/5, army; John M. Davis, T/5, army; Zack H. Pannell, S/sgt., army; Norman M. Whitworth, tech 5/c, army; Henry Frederick Maurer, mach. mate 3/c, USN; James M. Howerton, 1st/sgt., army; Charles R. Reams, S/sgt., AAF; Juan L. Ruiz, tech/5, army; Milton A. Adams, pfc., army; Lester L. Banta, pvt., army; Donald S. Hatley, tech/5, army; John L. Corder, army; Charles Schreiner Sweeten, av. mach. mate, USN; Herman L. Lacey, seaman 2/c, USN; Richard R. Stewart, tech/4 md., army; Harley M. Wood, pvt., army;

Maurice C. Gentry, capt., army; Lee F. Allison, major, army, QMC; Thomas E. Nix, cpl., army; Colon L. Whitworth, S/sgt., army; Gilbert Glyn Varga, pfc., marine corps; Virgil Edwards Franks, cpl., marine corps; Robert Lockley Fred, av. mach. mate 1/c, USN; Mildred E. Stone, sgt., AAF; Frank O. Cloudt, major, army field artillery; James A. Nunley, Jr., 1st lieut., AAF; Albert Adolph Becker, ship's cook, coast guard; Alvin Lafayette Connell, pfc., marine corps; Alton Connell, cpl., marine corps; Evarista A. Gonzalez, T/5, army; Fred W. Clark, capt., AAF; Phillip Stephens, sgt., army; Kenneth L. Perkins, sgt., USAF; Domingo B. Mireliz, pfc., army; Edmund R. Slagle, capt., army; Herbert H. Rogers, pfc., army; Charles Lyman Upham, Jr., chief yeoman, USN; R. M. Streeter, lieut., USN; Buck Elton Ellis, mach. mate 3/c, USN; John Ford Alston, fire control tech 2/c, USN; Homer Eugene Waters, engineman 2/c, USN; Dean Allen Moody, seaman recruit, USN; Lt. Geo. M. Amaon, Pvt. Louis B. Amaon, Lt. Clifton Anderson, Lt. Wade Anderson, Sgt. Lester F. Bachelor, Martin Baize, Jr., Sgt. Frank Beck, Joe McFatter, Lt. Roy Sweeten, Pvt. J. C. Baxter, S/Sgt. R. W. Blair, Lt. Clint Blair, Sim D. Brown, Capt. Jim T. Brown, Foy Buck, Pfc. Ben Carbajal, Cpl. Clifton Casey, S/Sgt. H. B. Chant, Pvt. G. C. Chapman, Sgt. Coleman Christopher, Robert L. Colwell, Pvt. Calvin Colson, Sgt. Clifton Connell, Sgt. Claud H. Cox, Pvt. Jessie R. Connell, Sgt. Herbert N. Cox, Milton Craig, Wesley Craig, Ben Daly, Pvt. Jose M. De Leon, Johnnie Duguay, Pvt. Jesus Enrique, Capt. R. A. Eads, Pvt. Clarence R. Ford, Pfc. Ocie Field, Sgt. Jake Gray, Rufus Smith, Pvt. Troy Gray, Cpl. Gus Hamrick, Cpl. Robert Hargus, Lt. Milton Harrington, Pfc. Howard Hatley, Clyde Hocker, Melvin B. Hicks, Russell Herndon, Wright Hill, Pvt. Kenneth Hicks, Pvt. Arthur C. Jones, Henry Holms, Lt. Commander J. H. Custer, C.P.O. Novie Chant, W. H. Clements, Arthur A. Creech, Charley Creech, C. B. Dalton, Robert R. Gray, Rollen Fry, J. C. Hatley, Charles Hamrick F 3/c Floyd L. Hopkins, David Hawkins, Pvt. Densel Marsh, Pvt. Odis Marsh, Lt. Louise Merch, Dillon Merritt, S/Sgt. Mitchell D. Miles, Sgt. Hersh, J. C. Murphy, Cpl. James Nance, Sgt. Roy Ogletree, Lt. Thomas Nelson, Pvt. Leonard W. Peck, Pvt. Walter C. Parks, Oswald Perkins, Cpl. Clinton Perkins, Lt. Raymond Petty, Sgt. Bob Powers, Shirley Rhea, Elmo Roberts, Ira C. Roberts, Cpl. Jack Roberts, Jess Robertson, Orveroy Roberts, Buck Rogers, Sgt. Oscar L. Robertson, Pvt. W. M. Schmich,

Pvt. Harvel W. Routh, Pvt. Edward T. Sosa, Pvt. James R. Stitts, Lt. Thornton Stork, Lt. Eddie R. Sweeten, Sgt. William Sweeten, Sgt. Clifton G. Taylor, Jr., R. C. Talley, Roger Thurman, W. H. Taylor, S/sgt. Alvis W. Tinsley, Chaplain Frank Traylor, Sgt. Charles R. Turk, T/sgt. Lawrence E. Walker, James F. Weaver, Frank F. Weaver, Pvt. Aubrey L. Welch, Pvt. Ira J. Welch, Sgt. Arthur Winans, Sgt. B. H. Whatley, A/S Howard C. Wood, Pvt. Robert L. Winans, Pvt. Jack Lacey, Homer Pierce, David Whatley, Robert Woodruff, Pvt. R. Garduna, T/Sgt. Bristo, W. C. Jones, David M. Turk, Pvt. Louie D. Kite, Capt. K. F. Keller, Pvt. David Lacey, Pvt. Martin Lacey, Pvt. James L. Levensailor, Pvt. Alfred Levensailor, Jack Lockhart, Pvt. R. S. Levensailor, Pvt. Wayne Luce, Lester Lockhart, Lemuel Hutcherson, S3/c H. T. Kite, Jr., Calvin Lacey, Jack Lockhart, James D. Matthews, J. W. Merritt, Gus L. Routh, Glen Pope, Horace Shackelford, Jr., J. E. Shackelford, Jr., Marvin Sanderlin, Jess Stewart, Ira Smith, Malcolm Sutherland, Johnnie Vernor, Woody Webb, Ira W. Wells, S/Sgt. Steven A. Custer, Max Eppler, Pvt. Franklin Felts, Willie Hawkins, Pvt. Johnnie Hill, T. J. Kite, Pfc. Elmo Pope, Pvt. Franklin Lespreance, Ted Powers, Lester Pope, Pvt. Francis M. Taylor, Luther Winans, L. J. Dean, Edmund Gildart, Fred Gildart, Henry Reed Bean, sgt., marine corps.

M. E. Stone began the installation of a frozen food locker plant in Rocksprings in 1946.

A \$100,000 road bond issue carried in Edwards County in 1946, 120 votes being cast for the proposition, and twenty-one against.

M. D. Roach completed twenty-five years of service in the Rocksprings Schools as maintenance man in 1946. Mr. Roach was presented a 29-jewel Hamilton watch by the Local Board of Trustees, in recognition of his long term of faithful service.

W. T. Anderson of Camp Wood and Barksdale opened up a flying field in Rocksprings in 1947. Mr. Anderson secured a flying instructor, C. L. Pape, an experienced aviator.

Money was let in 1947 by the Texas Highway Department to close the 9.44 mile gap on Highway 55 north of Barksdale. M. E. Ruby of San Marcos, Texas, turned in the lowest bid of \$121,305.

The Camp Wood-Leakey highway was in the process of being built in 1947.

Hankins Bros. of Rocksprings sold sixty-nine head of

quarter horses in 1947 for an average of \$510.20. Two stallions sold for \$5,400 and \$4,100 respectively.

Edwards County sold \$75,000 worth of hospital bonds in 1947, at an interest rate of 2.71 per cent, to be retired in 1975. Charles Huie, architect, drew up the plans for the building.

The People's State Bank, according to their October, 1947 statement, had assets of \$808,205.88.

The Barksdale baseball team played the Brackettville colored boys in October, 1947, and won by a score of 4 to 2. Smokey Joe Woods, Edwards County's "Babe Ruth," knocked a two-base hit, driving in two runs for Barksdale.

O. L. Davis was superintendent of the Rocksprings Schools in 1947.

The TAGRA picked Uvalde as the place for their 1948 show and sale. The 1947 sale was held at Fredericksburg, Texas. Total sales for the opening day of the Fredericksburg show were \$11,920. The top buck for the sale sold for \$680, and was bought by Adolph Stieler of Comfort, Texas. The billy was owned by Will S. Orr of Rocksprings, Fred Earwood of Sonora, and Bryan Hunt.

100 acres of land adjacent to the Boy Scout Camp Fawcett was sold to the highest bidder in 1947, and was bought by Neal Jernigan of Barksdale.

Byrl B. Brockman was pastor of the Rocksprings and the Barksdale Churches of Christ in 1947.

Plans were formulated in 1947 by County Agent Gus Storey for a 4H club in Rocksprings and in Barksdale. Several Rocksprings boys were taken to the 4H encampment at Alto Frio encampment grounds in July, 1947. Among those attending were Dan Harrison, Earl Cole Linn, Tom Bill Taylor, and Arthur Alston.

Dudley Edwards bought the old Greer building on the east side of the square in Rocksprings in 1947, and began the construction of a grocery store building.

Nelson and Faulkner opened up a garage in Rocksprings in 1947, on a new location on the Sonora highway.

A full-length movie was made of the Devil's Sinkhole in July, 1947. Louie Babb, theater operator of Rocksprings, asked permission to hold the premiere of the picture in his theatre.

The voters in Camp Wood were called on in 1947 to vote on the proposition of voting a \$40,000 bond issue for the purpose of putting up a modern waterworks for the

town. The election carried by a vote of 121 to 0. In the plans for the system were included a 100-foot tower and larger main pipes, with an improved pumping plant at the Camp Wood Springs.

The O. C. Popes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June, 1947. Three people were present that day who were present at the wedding fifty years before: Mrs. S. E. Hill, Mrs. Lizzie Pope, and W. D. Reagan.

The first meeting of the spring session of the FBI Law Enforcement Conference convened in Rocksprings in June, 1947, at Rocksprings, with fifty-three officers present and sixteen countries represented. Sheriff R. R. Corder of Edwards County was host to the officers.

The Edwards County Vocational School for veterans was opened in 1947. Veterans of World War II were eligible to receive from \$65.00 to \$90.00 per month from the Veterans Administration for the program. Nineteen veterans showed interest in attending the school, which was under the general supervision of Sam Hough, service officer of the American Legion.

In 1947, the Dismukes family donated land for the new Edwards County hospital that was soon to be erected in Rocksprings.

Two horses, Booger and Hy Glow, owned by J. O. Hankins, Edwards County ranchman, won first place at a race meet in San Angelo in May, 1947.

Much interest was shown in school elections in Edwards County in 1947. In Rocksprings at the trustee's election, 123 votes were cast for C. H. Gilmer, 107 for Bob Feyn, and 116 for J. A. Clark. In Barksdale, where two trustees were elected, A. E. Strackbein received seventy-five votes, Paul Miller, ninety-five, and Pat Felts, thirty-six.

The Rocksprings Library contained over 1200 books in 1947. Mrs. R. R. Corder was in charge of the local project.

The Uvalde Livestock Sales of Uvalde was opened for business on April 5, 1947, with an auction arena and yard at North Uvalde. Owners of the company were W. P. Strole, Roy Kothman, and Pat Marshall. The purpose of the auction ring and its facilities was to provide an outlet and a market to ranchmen of the area for their livestock.

C. H. Gilmer was appointed as chairman of the appropriations committee of the Texas legislature in 1947.

The People's State Bank of Rocksprings reported more than a million dollars on deposit in the bank in 1947.

The Rocksprings School Board of Trustees voted in 1948 to build a vocational agriculture show barn and five teacherages. Nine government surplus buildings were purchased at Hondo, and Bob Feyn was given the job of dismantling the buildings preparatory to moving them to Rocksprings. Land was purchased from Mrs. Deel for the location of the teacherage buildings.

The board of equalization of the school district raised valuations of property in the district to raise the necessary money through taxation, thus avoiding the necessity of a bond issue.

Claud Gilmer, after serving five terms in the Texas legislature, one of which he served as speaker of the house, announced his intention in 1948 not to run again for that office. Mr. Gilmer, however, through his influence, became known as "The Balance Wheel of the 50th Legislature," and was able to influence the passage of some good legislation in that session of the Texas house.

The A. P. Allison well on Pulliam above Barksdale was spudded in February, 1948, and a rig set up over the location preparatory to running a deep test.

Burial services for J. Wright Hill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Hill of Barksdale, were held in Barksdale. The Edwards County American Legion Post had charge of the cemetery services. Wright Hill died on March 9, 1943, while in the Southwest Pacific, serving with the U. S. Air Corps, Radar Division.

The Rocksprings Lions Club received its charter on May 19, 1948. The local club was sponsored by the Kerrville Lions, and about twenty members of the Kerrville Club were present for the charter night program. Hon. C. H. Gilmer acted as toastmaster for the occasion. Rep. O. C. Fisher, of San Angelo, addressed the group.

Cecil Allen accepted the position of superintendent of the Rocksprings School in May of 1948. Mr. Allen had previously served as high school principal in the Rocksprings School system.

Eighty-five per cent of Edwards County was leased for oil in 1948.

Claud Gilmer was a delegate to the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia in 1948.

John Shipman was killed instantly on the Claud Gilmer ranch on Hackberry when he was thrown by a horse at the

corrals near the house. The accident occurred on August 18, 1948.

Scenic highway No. 337 from Camp Wood to Leakey was formally opened on August 17, 1948. A large delegation from Rocksprings joined the caravan at Camp Wood, where a local Lions Club member, L. J. Dean, welcomed the group. From Camp Wood, the caravan moved over the new highway to Leakey, where a barbecue dinner awaited them.

An REA appraiser made a survey of Edwards County in 1948, for the purpose of determining the number of prospective subscribers for the proposed electrification project for the county. A total of \$490,000 was allocated for the project by the Rural Electrification Association.

The Camp Wood School made numerous improvements to their grammar school building in 1948. A new roof was put on the two buildings, two bathhouses were installed and equipped, and other minor improvements made. The local PTA contributed \$900 toward the cost, and the balance was put up by WPA and war surplus projects.

The Camp Wood PTA, in 1946-47, earned \$1000, and in 1945 they raised \$1200, all of which was allocated for the improvement of the school. The improvements were accomplished under the leadership of W. W. Webb, superintendent of the school.

Houston White, Texas Ranger, was stationed at Rocksprings in 1948. Mr. White's territory included Crockett, Schleicher, Menard, Kimble, Edwards, Sutton, and Val Verde counties.

A \$100,000 road bond issue was presented to the voters of Edwards County for their approval in 1948. The bond issue carried by a vote of 223 for and sixty-eight against.

Two new teachers began work in the Barksdale School in 1948. Rogers Stovall, a local Canyon boy, was employed as high school teacher and coach, and Mrs. Tunnel was hired to teach the third and fourth grades.

Bro. V. W. Hayhurst was the pastor of the Barksdale and Camp Wood Churches of Christ in 1948.

The following is a letter to the Rocksprings *Rustler* written before 1900:

Rocksprings *Rustler*,

Dear Editor:

I am writing you a few lines about one year's subscrip-

tion to the *Rustler*. I lived there before the courthouse was built. My father laid the cornerstone. I knew everybody there at that time and that wasn't many. The first school house we had in the old building is partly standing, where the rock fence is. My father built that old fence fifty-five years ago. I am sure there are a few old-timers there yet.

R. R. Nipp.

Dr. Frank H. Pratt came to Rocksprings in 1948 to set up a practice.

Firefighting equipment was purchased for the Camp Wood fire department in 1948 with funds raised by the local Lions Club earned at an auction sale in Camp Wood.

M. D. Taylor, the Duke of Vance, and one of the leading goat men of the Southwest in 1949, has always been a promoter of the mohair industry. He is one of the outspoken members of the goat associations; when he believes that he is right, he stands up, twists his flowing moustache, his eyes twinkle in good humor — but he gets them told. He lives in a frank country. They call the creek that flows by his place Bull Creek because it roars so much when it comes down in its big rises.

Mr. Taylor's philosophy is listened to with interest at all the conventions. On one occasion he and J. L. Gulley of Uvalde were talking about the large number of people killed in this country compared with England. Mr. Taylor, who believes that things are never so bad as they are painted, argued, "Maybe there are more people that need killing in the United States than in England."

Another time a fellow ranchman complained to Duke that one of his neighbors was trying to buy his rams at last year's prices, putting in some lambs at 1933 prices. "Well, don't blame the fellow, just don't take him up. He's just a human being trying to put the breeches on you," smiled the man from the banks of Bull Creek.

Rev. Hollis Yielding was called as the pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church in 1949.

The Gilmer-Aiken measures, which outlined sweeping educational reforms for the state of Texas, were signed into law by Governor Beauford Jester in 1949.

A new pump was installed in May, 1949, at the pumping plant of the Camp Wood water system. The pump had a capacity of 140 gallons per minute, instead of the seventy-five gallons that the old pump delivered.

Rocksprings High School cattle judging team placed seventh in a national judging contest in May, 1949, in which 1269 high school teams were entered. The Rocksprings team was the only team from Texas that placed.

The Rocksprings water system installed six-inch mains and fireplugs over the city, in an improvement plan in April, 1949.

Officials to take the oath of office in 1949 in Edwards County were: Sam A. Hough, judge; E. I. Miller, treasurer; W. E. Thurman, Joe Wood, Ernest Varga, and W. G. Brown, commissioners of the county court; Howard Mays, county attorney; Ned Bishop, county surveyor.

Earl Pope, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Pope, was killed in an automobile accident north of Barksdale on Highway 55, in November, 1949. Two other occupants of the car, Herman Lacey and Pete Kendrick, were seriously injured.

The Nueces Lions Club was host to approximately 200 Highway 55 committeemen from points as far away as San Angelo, and Corpus Christi, at a meeting and barbecue held at Camp Wood, November 10, 1949. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a bridge across the Nueces at Barksdale and improvement of the highway from Barksdale to Uvalde.

The Edwards County Memorial Hospital in Rocksprings opened officially in October, 1949. Personally engaged to carry on the hospital were: Mrs. Tempe Good, superintendent; Mrs. Beulah Cowsert, bookkeeping and staff nurse, Miss Jene Draper, surgical nurse; Mrs. Cameron Thorpe, staff nurse, and Mrs. Serena Reed, night nurse. Mrs. Monroe Cloudt was placed in charge of the kitchen, and Ira Linn was employed as janitor and tender of the boiler room.

James C. Hill of Camp Wood was instantly killed on September 22, 1949, when the car in which he was riding left the road and overturned on the road between Barksdale and Vance. Other occupants of the car were Babe Taylor and James L. Hopper, both of Camp Wood.

Mohair sold for forty-two and sixty-two cents in 1949.

Rev. O. R. Estes was pastor of the Barksdale Baptist Church in 1948-1949. In August, 1949, he was called as mission pastor to the Baptist Chapel in Uvalde.

Rocksprings High School changed from eleven-man football in 1949 to six-man. Rocksprings was placed in a district with Harper, Medina, Center Point, and Comfort.

The Barksdale School District voted a \$70,000 bond in 1949 to construct a new high school building and gymnasium.

Paul Miller, Vance ranchman, and a trustee of the Barksdale School District, was found dead at his ranch in August 1949. Mr. Miller had fallen from a pecan tree in which he had been working, and apparently his body had lain for several days before being found. His faithful dog had protected his body from the hogs that roamed the river bottom in that vicinity, and was still on guard when the body was found.

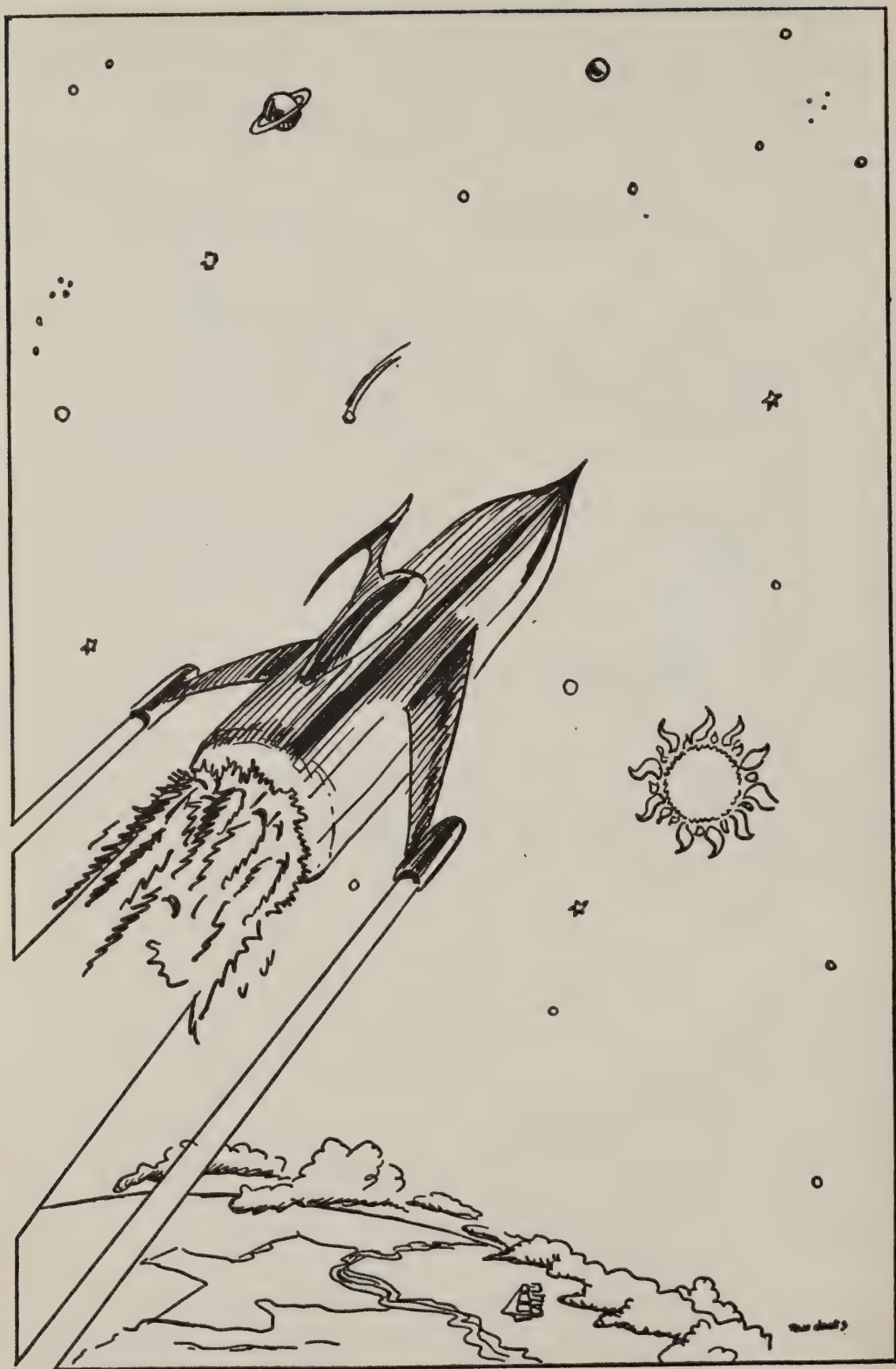
Interest was renewed in the kaolin deposits east of Camp Wood in August, 1949, when samples of the clay were sent for laboratory analysis to determine its value.

A jet fighter plane made a crash landing in a field on the Ed Young ranch near Rocksprings in August, 1949, after the plane had become lost, running low on fuel. The pilot was uninjured.

Claud Gilmer was appointed by Governor Allan Shivers in July, 1949, to serve on the board of Texas State Hospitals and Special Schools. Mr. Gilmer was named temporary chairman of the nine-man group.

Ralph Eppler, son of Bailey Eppler, and formerly of the Vance community, died as a result of an automobile accident near Fabens, Texas, in July, 1949.

Contract for the construction of 172 miles of REA lines for the E section of Edwards County was let to Irby Construction Company, Jackson, Mississippi, in December, 1949, at a cost of \$43,000. One section already under contract to Alsup and Associates was nearing completion.



CHAPTER XI

Destination — Mars — 1950-1958

Dr. Sutton opened an office in Camp Wood in January, 1950.

The Methodist people of Barksdale met at the Barksdale School auditorium in January, 1950, and organized a local church. Plans were made for construction of a church building in the near future.

Rev. Troy B. Jackson was called as pastor of the Barksdale Baptist Church in 1950.

The first Latin-American ever to sit on a grand jury in Edwards County was Gabriel Gonzales. He was summoned as a grand jurymen in March, 1950.

Jack Colwell, sixteen, of Barksdale, died June 4, 1950, at the Memorial Hospital in Rocksprings, from injuries sustained in a car wreck near Barksdale. Joe Lynn Whittley received severe head injuries in the wreck.

Joe Whittley was ordained as a deacon in an impressive service for the Barksdale Baptist Church, Sunday, June 18, 1950.

Plans were completed for the new high school and gymnasium in Barksdale in 1950. Wayne Birtrong was given the contract to put up the building, and the Alamo Lumber Company agreed to furnish the material at cost plus ten per cent.

Calvin Peterson was pastor of the Rocksprings Methodist Church in 1950, Hollis Yielding, pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church, and V. W. Hayhurst, pastor of the Church of Christ.

In 1950, an additional sum of \$225,000 was allocated by REA for building additional lines in Edwards and Real counties, and for the purchase of the Hill country Wool and Mohair Company building in Rocksprings, to be used as an office building and supply house. 135 miles of new lines were included in the new allocation of funds.

Claud Gilmer was severely injured in an automobile accident near Comfort, when the car in which he was riding

had a head-on collision with another automobile.

Mohair was being contracted in 1950 for \$1.01 and \$1.26 per pound.

The Barksdale Methodist Church was formally opened on Sunday, September 24, 1950. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Raymond Brink of Brackettville. Robert H. James was the church's first pastor.

L. J. Dean of Camp Wood was appointed by Governor Shivers in 1950 as a member of the Nueces River Conservation and Reclamation District.

The Rocksprings Telephone Company filed application in 1950, for a loan from the Rural Electrification Administration, to rebuild their entire rural system of lines.

A big auction sale was held at Camp Wood on November 9, 1950. A local band under the direction of E. D. (Doc) Pannell furnished music for the occasion. Pete Gulley of Uvalde was auctioneer and \$958.00 was realized in sales. The auction was sponsored by the Vance Community Progress Committee, the proceeds going to the improvement of the local cemeteries.

The Barksdale gymnasium was officially dedicated in April, 1951, with a varied program. A homecoming event, on Friday, April 27, featured an open house in the gymnasium, ball games in the afternoon, and a banquet on Friday night. On Saturday, a big rodeo was staged at the Dolly Connell ranch.

The Vance community was awarded first place in the Neighborhood Progress contest conducted April, 1951, in a district comprising nineteen counties.

Frank Randall was called as pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church in 1951.

300,000 pounds of mohair sold in 1951 at \$1.90 and \$2.40 per pound.

Buster Pannell purchased the interest of T. C. Barnes in the J. Y. Miller Service Station in Rocksprings, in February, 1951, giving him ownership of two Rocksprings filling stations.

Officials to take the oath of office in 1951 were: E. I. Miller, district and county clerk; Dor Brown, sheriff and tax collector; Mrs. Hattie M. Goodwin, treasurer; W. E. Thurman, Sr., Joe W. Wood, N. E. Varga, and Joe Carl Hyde, commissioners from the four county precincts.

E. A. Welch leased the Hobbs Grocery and Service Station from Sarah Puett in 1951.

The Edwards County unit of the TSTA was effected at a meeting in May, 1951, with Cecil Allen, president; Mrs. J. W. Tunnell, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Brooks Sweeten, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. Joe Luce, secretary; Allan Stovall, treasurer.

J. C. Dunlap was the pastor of the Barksdale Baptist Church in 1951.

In 1951, the portrait of Evelyn Edwards, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dud Edwards of Rocksprings, was selected for exhibition by the National Portrait Exhibitors Forum. The exhibit was made by Lamme Galleries in Denver, Colorado, July 16 through July 20. The exhibits were sponsored by the forum, and are held in the interest of good photography. The picture was made of Evelyn when she was thirteen years old.

The Lions Club was reorganized in Rocksprings in 1951 with twenty-five charter members. M. E. Stone was elected president; Ellis Martin was 1st vice-president; Rev. Shan Hall, 2nd vice-president; Lee Lester, 3rd vice-president; Frank Randall, secretary-treasurer; Milton Smith, lion tamer; S. L. Guthrie, tail twister. Directors: Cecil Allen, J. L. Balantyne, C. E. Martin, and Howard Grooms.

R. Ellis Pannell, fifty-nine, of Barksdale, was killed instantly when the car in which he was riding turned over, hitting a tree. The accident occurred below Arnold Crossing on June 24, 1951. P. E. Burleson of Vance, the other occupant of the car, was taken to the Uvalde Memorial Hospital suffering from a fractured leg and rib, and a slight concussion.

The car had swerved to miss hitting an oncoming car and hit the curb with the righthand rear wheel. The drive-shaft snapped and dropped, turning the car over.

The Barksdale PTA sponsored a project in 1951, in which more than \$2000 was raised to buy curtains for the new auditorium gymnasium. The main curtain was made of pure mohair material.

A large crowd was present in the Barksdale Baptist Church, July 15, 1951, for the purpose of dedicating a baptistry scene, painted and donated by Mrs. Myrtle Fryar of Dallas. Rev. J. C. Dunlap, local pastor, spoke on the 23rd Psalm in his dedicatory sermon.

Rev. Hestor was called as pastor of the Barksdale Methodist Church in 1951.

Allan Stovall sold his livestock and his lease on the Caro-

line Taylor ranch in July, 1951, to Ben Williams of the Vance community.

Vernon Hubble, son of the late Ed Hubble, was killed in a truck accident near Sonora, August 4, 1951, while working for the REA on a project near Sonora.

Gordon Hatley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hatley, died in an airplane crash near Uvalde in September of 1951.

Vocational Agriculture was approved as a credit in the Barksdale School in 1951. Joe Trees, the local VA teacher, and Allan Stovall, superintendent, were instrumental in securing approval for the course.

In 1951, the Barksdale School opened up a new, modern lunchroom as a part of their new program for better serving the schoolchildren of the district.

A school band was organized in Rocksprings in 1951, under the leadership of superintendent Cecil Allen.

Wayne Birtrong of Rocksprings was given the contract to build the H. G. Lackey home two miles south of Barksdale, in October, 1951. The house was to contain seven rooms and two carports, and was estimated to cost between \$30,000 and \$35,000.

One night in October, 1951, 105 deer were counted on the highway between Rocksprings and Garvin Store, a distance of thirty-five miles.

Jesse T. Evans was elected president of the Rocksprings National Farm Loan Association, in 1951, to succeed J. N. Whitworth, Sr., who at the time of his death had served as president of the association for seventeen years.

100,000 pounds of mohair sold in 1951 for \$1.00 and \$1.25.

Ben L. Stohler was called as pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church in 1951.

A thirty-three-point buck was killed at the Greenwood Valley ranch near Rocksprings in December of 1951 by Frank O'Toole of Houston. This was a near record in the county, at least for many years, according to old-timers. The deer weighed only ninety pounds.

A nurses' home and carport were added to the Memorial Hospital's facilities in Rocksprings in 1952.

M. H. Keen was pastor of the Barksdale Methodist Church in 1952.

L. A. Clark of Rocksprings was elected president of the AAGRA in 1952, the second man from Edwards County to hold the position.

Sixty-two new band uniforms were ordered by the Rocksprings School in 1952, from the Sol Frank Company, at a cost of \$3900.

The Canyon boasted a Do-Si-Do Club in 1952.

Jim Gray came to Edwards Country in 1898.

Arthur Field and Alvin Haynes were killed near Marfa, Texas, in September, 1952, when the pickup truck in which they were riding ran off a bluff. The two men were not found for some time after the accident.

Claud Gilmer was named to head the Texas state organization of Texas Democrats for Eisenhower in 1952.

The Real-Edwards bi-county unit of the TSTA was organized in 1952. Schools comprising the unit were Rocksprings, Barksdale, Camp Wood, and Leakey. Zac Gray, superintendent of the Camp Wood School system, was elected president; Mrs. W. B. Hill, 1st vice-president; Sam Davis, 2nd vice-president; and Mrs. Celia Ann Hill as secretary-treasurer.

Home Economics was added to the course of study of the Barksdale School in 1952, with Mrs. Terry Hill as the teacher. An up-to-date department was installed in the two-story elementary school building, and a number of renovations made to existing facilities.

Work was begun in 1952 on the new four-room educational building of the Barksdale Baptist Church, under the supervision of H. E. Easley.

Ray Harvey was pastor of Vance Baptist Church from 1946 to 1952.

The People's State Bank in Rocksprings celebrated its ninth birthday in 1952. The bank was organized May 1, 1943, with a capital stock of \$30,000, and \$10,000 in surplus funds. Deposits on that day were \$100,611.64. When it opened its door for business on May 1, 1952, nine years later, total deposits were \$1,004,873.21.

The personnel of the bank remained the same: J. Alton Miller, cashier; Thomas L. Taylor, assistant cashier; Evelyn Minter, bookkeeper. Officers and directors of the bank were: Claud Gilmer, president, Jesse Evans, vice-president; L. B. Wardlaw, Ivan Smart, and J. A. Miller, directors.

\$326 was raised in 1952 by the Barksdale Town Volley Ball Club to purchase and install an electric scoreboard and clock for the high school gymnasium.

Bomar Gist was pastor of the Barksdale Church of Christ in 1951 and 1952.

Rob Fred bought the two Pannell service stations in Rocksprings in 1952.

The Rocksprings boys' basketball team won the district 81-B championship in 1952.

The Wheat brand used since 1856 was the half-circle over 5.

The Barksdale High School dairy-judging team, under the supervision of Joe Trees, Barksdale VA instructor, won first place in the dairy judging contest in the Houston Fat Stock Show in 1952. The team, composed of Billy Ralph Robertson, Richard Bain, and Lonnie Felts, won over 125 other teams from all over Texas. Billy Ralph tied for 9th high point boy of the contest. Lonnie Felts competed in the calf scramble contest and was one of ten boys to win \$125, with which to buy a beef type calf. Roy Rogers presented the three teams with the awards before an audience of 30,000, and a television audience many times larger.

A paved road from Rocksprings to Brackettville was begun in December, 1953.

Mr. and Mrs. Burney Pope bought the Albert Perkins cafe in Barksdale in December of 1953, and moved the stock and fixtures to their building across the street. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins had operated the cafe for about fifteen years, and planned to spend a few years in resting up.

Eddie Pate, student in the Barksdale High School, entered two lambs in the Houston Fat Stock Show in February of 1954.

Dr. Frank H. Pratt was elected in 1953 to the office of president of a nine-county Medical Association.

The Rocksprings School band participated in a massed school band parade in Austin on November 20, 1953.

The Angora band made a fine display with their colorful uniforms and shining instruments.

The rig for the Phillips wildcat west of Barksdale was put on location in November of 1953. The well was scheduled for a depth of 8000 feet.

The Rocksprings School was assigned by the University Interscholastic League in 1953 to District 11-B to play eleven-man football. Mr. Bramlett, superintendent of schools, announced that Rocksprings would compete with Bandera, Dilley, Sabinal, Castroville, and Brackettville.

The initial meeting of the Nueces River Conservation and Reclamation District was held in Uvalde in November, 1953, to explore the possibilities of conserving the water-

shed from the Nueces River, with consideration of the building of dams. Horace Brown, Frank Cloudt, and Judge Henry Bierschwale attended from Rocksprings. L. J. Dean was the Barksdale and Camp Wood representative at the meeting.

B. H. Whatley was pastor of the Barksdale Baptist Church in 1953. His wife taught the intermediate grades in the Barksdale School.

Mohair sold in 1953 for \$1.00 and \$1.25 per pound.

The Edwards County Board of Education, consisting of J. W. Richardson, Gus Fleischer, Terry Hill, Wheat Bradford, and Paul Rosenow, voted three to one to give the Hackberry District to the Barksdale School District. The Hackberry District, which had been under contract to the Barksdale School for three years, had become dormant under a provision of the Gilmer-Aiken school laws. The Hackberry District consisted of 110 square miles of territory.

J. N. Whiteley, father of Mrs. H. E. Easley of Vance, died from burns he received when he fell into a fire at the Easley ranch home on February, 1953. Mr. Whiteley, age eighty-six, had put a stick of wood in the fireplace, and it was supposed that he suffered a heart attack and fell into the fire.

Gus Fleischer leased his garage business in Rockpsprings to his nephew, Red Clark, and Clark's son, Clifford, in 1953. Mr. Fleischer's father had established the business in 1912.

Poco Bueno, quarter horse owned by Jess Hankins of Rocksprings, was named champion in the quarter horse show in Fort Worth in 1953.

In March 1953, Louie Craig was seriously burned when he came in contact with a high line wire, while working on a stock tank near Eagle Pass. He fell twenty feet from the scaffolding on which he was working. The burns later necessitated the amputation of one foot and one arm.

Following is a letter written on July 14, 1888, from Miss Leah Melinda Chisum of Cedar Creek near Barksdale, to the Rocksprings paper:

Mr. Editor:

Here I am on Cedar Creek. The people down here are complaining about dry weather for their crops have all burned up, so I tell you, dear friend, it is enough to dishearten the people.

The people of Barksdale, Spring Creek, Cedar Creek, and Pulliam celebrated the 4th at the cedar school house and

seemed to have enjoyed the day splendidly. The weather was warm, and sultry, but shade trees were plentiful. When dinner was spread upon the ground, there were smiles upon the people's faces. The young people spent the evening playing and singing while the older ones were engaged in talking about the weather and hard times.

If I see all this in print, I will write again.

L. M. C.

Miss Chisum is now Mrs. R. C. Mills, and she will be seventy-eight on October 21.

Cecil Allen resigned as superintendent of the Rocksprings School in 1953, having served in that capacity from 1948 to 1953. James E. Bramlett was elected to succeed Mr. Allen.

Four Nueces Canyon students of Southwest Texas Junior College suffered injuries when the college bus overturned between Camp Wood and Leahey near Camp Wood Creek. Those injured were Emmitt Hutto, C. A. Sweeten, Lenetta Faye Connell, and Elby Hutto. The accident occurred when a truck driven by Archie Blakeney was turning in at a gate, and the college bus went into a shoulder in passing it.

An electrocardiograph machine was donated to the Edwards County Memorial Hospital in 1953, in honor of W. E. Thurman, Edwards County ranchman, and for a number of years county commissioner.

The Vocational Agriculture Class from Rocksprings School in 1953, coached by J. E. (Spud) Tatum, won first place in a national judging contest in which 1,587 high school teams from every state and Canada participated.

Three members of the team, Douglas Dixon, Buddy Ellis, and J. H. Fryar, made up the dairy cattle judging team that recently tied for first place in the district dairy judging contest.

Dick Field and Bobby Field leased the CPL ice house in Rocksprings in 1953. The ice house was moved to the Miller Service Station across from the City Hall.

Twenty-five members of the Ornithological Society of Houston visited Rocksprings and the Devil's Sinkhole in May of 1953. Their purpose was to study the swallows and the bats that made their home in the cave.

The Barksdale School trustees met in May, 1953, and re-elected all the faculty. Allan Stovall, who had been superintendent of the school for nine years, and principal for one year, resigned his position. During his tenure in the school,

many improvements had been made, chief among them the new high school building and gymnasium, and a well-equipped lunchroom. Under his leadership, the school was affiliated with the state department in 1945, thus making the school eligible for state aid. The teachers' salaries were then raised to meet the salary scale. Vocational and Home Economics departments were added during his tenure, and a sixteen-piece band was organized and equipped. The Hackberry School was annexed to the Barksdale Independent School District, which added 110 square miles of territory to the district. In 1946, audio-visual equipment was made available to the school when the local PTA purchased a \$600 movie projector. The organization subsequently purchased an opaque projector. Laboratory science was made available to the high school students when a laboratory was equipped, first in the old high school building and later on in the new building. The schoolgrounds were enlarged by the purchase of four additional lots, and by the donation of another lot by the Church of Christ people, who moved their church building to another location to make room for further expansion of the school.

593 scholastics were enumerated in Edwards County in 1953, according to County Judge H. W. Bierschwale. That figure showed an increase of forty-two scholastics over 1952.

A drive-in theatre was built just north of the town of Barksdale in 1953. The project was financed by Earleen Weathers and Don Bryson. The initial crowds that attended the new theatre, the Don Juan, were large.

In 1953, in Real County, 1500 hunters killed 350 turkeys and 1400 deer with an estimated income to the ranchmen of the county of \$200,000.

In 1953, Edwards County was declared a disaster area and was thus made eligible for drought relief from the federal government.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Greer, Jr., of Rocksprings, attended the Southwest Regional Small Bore Rifle Shoot at Fort Worth in June, 1953, where Mrs. Greer won high lady certificates in 100-yard iron sight, 50-yard any sight, and Dewar any sight. Mr. Greer was second sharpshooter in the 50-yard any sight.

Mr. Greer won a place as second marksman in the 50-yard iron sights; first marksman in 50-meter iron sights; third marksman in Dewar iron sights; 3rd marksman in iron sight aggregate; second marksman in 100 yards, any sight; and

third marksman in grand aggregate. Seventy-five entries took part in the contest.

Excerpts from the old Rocksprings *Rustler*, 1896 issue:

John Sweeten bought the Poindexter well last week, consideration \$600. It is said that the well is the most desirable location in Edwards County.

All those indebted to Newton and Smart must settle within 10 days or suit will be brought at once. We mean business. Newton and Smart.

Cedar Creek, from Pullens up, raised over \$600 worth of pecans. There was a good crop of mohair also. Our people will thus be better able to endure the failure of crops the past season.

A yard improvement contest was held in the Canyon in July, 1953. Winners in the yard improvement division were: first place — Mrs. L. J. Dean, Camp Wood; second place — Mrs. Jake Gray, Camp Wood; third place — Mrs. H. E. Easley, Vance. Beautiful flowerbed division winners were: first place — Mrs. H. G. Lackey, Camp Wood; second place — Mrs. J. E. Shackelford, Sr., Barksdale; third place — Mrs. Mamie Powers, Barksdale.

The judges were Mrs. John D. Sutherland of Montell, Mrs. Jake Gray, Camp Wood; third place — Mrs. H. E. Easley, Vance. Beautiful flowerbed division winners were: first place — Mrs. H. G. Lackey, Camp Wood; second place — Mrs. J. E. Shackelford, Sr., Barksdale; third place — Mrs. Mamie Powers, Barksdale.

The Rocksprings Gun Club team, composed of Neville G. Smart, O. L. McNealy, Howard Martindale, and Ned Bishop, won the State Championship in .22 caliber and .38 caliber marksmanship at the pistol match held at the Austin police range in Austin. The members of the team were presented with medals.

In August, 1953, the writer and his family moved to San Antonio, to accept employment in the Edgewood School District. Atlee and Bonnye Grey were placed in San Marcos State Teachers College.

Wool was being contracted in August, 1953, for 60¢ per pound.

A budget of \$102,738.80 was approved by the Board of Trustees of the Rocksprings School District in 1953. Rocksprings School began the term with an enrollment of 258. Twenty-four boys reported for football practice.

\$525,000 was allocated to Edwards and Real counties in 1953 by the State Highway Department, for road construction, \$310,000 to be used on Highway 41 in Edwards, and \$150,000 on Highway 41 in Real County.

David Pryor was fatally injured in an automobile accident which occurred near the Ballantyne Hotel in Rocksprings in November of 1954. David was a grandson of the late Ike T. Pryor, a founder of the Pryor ranch, and of the town of La Pryor.

111,580 acres of land were listed in Edwards County in 1954 for hunting leases.

J. R. Magers was pastor of the Rocksprings Methodist Church in 1954.

Mrs. Marion C. Nix, Rocksprings, Mr. Augusta A. Storey, Rocksprings, and Sammy Welch, Barksdale, were named to take the 1954 agricultural census for Edwards County.

Elvie Moore finished his sixteenth year as superintendent of the Sunday School of Rocksprings Baptist Church in 1954. Milton Smith was appointed to assume the position vacated by Mr. Moore.

Sheriff Dor Brown was no-billed by the preliminary hearing of the local justice court in the fatal shooting of Torivio Jimenez in August, 1954. Torivio Jimenez died from a bullet wound in the heart, following a disturbance in the Celia Angeles Cafe in Rocksprings. Sheriff Brown was making a routine checkup preparatory to leaving town on business, and was asked by Mrs. Angeles to relieve her place of Jimenez, who was making a disturbance. Mr. Brown and several women bystanders tried to persuade Jimenez to go home. When he refused, Brown returned to town to get Clabe Higginbotham, who was serving as deputy. Jimenez was outside and armed with a knife. He first started toward Mr. Higginbotham, and then turned toward Sheriff Brown. He was preparing to lunge when Brown fired, hitting Jimenez in the heart.

J. E. Tatum, vocational agriculture teacher in the Rocksprings School, was given a twenty-year distinguished service award at the annual meeting of the vocational agriculture teachers in San Antonio, on Thursday, August 5, 1954.

Officers elected for Edwards County in 1954 were Horace Brown, judge; Dor Brown, sheriff; Sam Hough, county attorney; Hattie Goodwin, county treasurer; E. I. Miller, clerk; and Mrs. Smokey Joe Wood, commissioner, precinct No. 2.

L. A. Malechek, Jr., and Billy Ralph Robertson, were

presented their Lone Star Farmer's degrees at the annual Future Farmers of America convention.

The Rocksprings High School had its first graduating class in 1904.

In ten months, the ranchmen of Edwards County spent \$417,808, \$28,000 for 11,000 tons of drought emergency feed.

County Commissioner Joe (Smokey) Wood died at his home in Barksdale, May 25, 1954, of a heart attack. Smokey may be remembered as the "Babe Ruth" of the local baseball club.

Ellis Martin was appointed game warden for Edwards County in May, 1954, to be stationed in Rocksprings.

A modern highway bridge was built over Ranch Creek below Camp Wood in 1954, at a cost of \$24,371. The low bidder on the project was Jack Freeland and Company of San Antonio.

A new record was set for mohair in 1954, when Schreiner Company sold 76,000 pounds at 70 cents and \$1.65.

Barksdale School track team, competing against teams from Utopia, Rocksprings, and Leakey, won first place in district 77-B in 1954. Barksdale scored a total of 561½ points.

Mrs. L. C. Billings, widow of Ammon Billings, early settler of Edwards County, died April 5, 1954. The Billings family moved to the Hackberry prong of the Nueces in 1876. Mr. Billings, it is claimed, discovered Devil's Sinkhole in the days when the Indians were still a threat in the country.

A light twister struck the Canyon in April, 1954, and completely demolished the screen of the Don Juan Drive-in theatre near Barksdale.

Two Rocksprings men were charged with burglary in Rocksprings, in 1954, as a result of breaking into the Martin Jewelry Store, and taking a number of watches, rings, and other jewelry. The two men, Felix Martinez, and Alfonso Avila, were captured by Sheriff Dor Brown, and confessed to having taken the stolen goods, some of which they disposed of in Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras. Most of the loot was recovered.

In 1954, Homer Rudasill offered land for an emergency landing field for airplanes on his ranch near Rocksprings. The offer came as a result of several airplane crashes over the county, the major one occurring near Leakey, when a passenger liner crashed into the mountains, killing a large number of people.

Mal Reinhardt, who had served Edwards County as game

warden since 1948, was transferred to Port Arthur in 1954.

J. E. Shackelford, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Shackelford of Barksdale, was killed when his car overturned between Camp Wood and Barksdale in February, 1954. Mr. Shackelford was deputy sheriff of Real County, and was also employed by the Rocksprings Gas Company.

Claud Erwin was installed as acting postmaster for Rocksprings in February, 1954. Rocksprings had been left without a postmaster by the death of Mrs. John Henry, in November, 1953.

Claud Gilmer was appointed in 1954 to the committee to administer the Hal and Charlie Peterson Foundation, "Dedicated to Humanity," whose initial gift was a sum of \$1,000,000 for the building of a hospital in Kerrville, Texas.

An old record of the Rocksprings School in 1902, when J. B. Bird was superintendent, reveals that boys and girls in those days may have been learning as much or more than those in the present-day schools.

The Board of Trustees for the Rocksprings School in 1902 was composed of W. T. Ford, S. A. Henry, and C. E. Franks. The faculty consisted of J. B. Bird, principal; Mrs. J. B. Bird, first assistant, Miss Sallie Draper; and a primary teacher to be supplied. 196 students were enrolled. The names listed in the student body make up an almost complete registry of the names of the early families who lived in Rocksprings, and in the surrounding area, at the turn of the century.

Petitions were presented to Edwards County Judge Horace Brown and Real County Judge H. B. Sansom in January, 1955, to call an election to vote on the question of consolidation of the Camp Wood and Barksdale school districts.

County officers for Edwards County in 1955 were Horace Brown, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; Hattie M. Goodwin, treasurer; Ned Bishop, county surveyor; Dor Brown, sheriff; Sam A. Hough, county attorney; Frankie Lee Wood, commissioner, precinct No. 2; Joe Carl Hyde, precinct No. 4; Fletcher Gardner, precinct No. 1; and Son Varga, precinct No. 3.

George Herndon and wife were critically injured in a head-on car collision with a highway culvert in January, 1955.

Highway 55, from Barksdale to Camp Wood, was rebuilt in 1956, at a cost of \$240,000.

The Rocksprings School District extended to the Barks-

dale School a plan of consolidation in 1955.

The Barksdale and Camp Wood school districts voted in February of 1955 to consolidate, by a vote of 281 and 103.

Robert Augusta Hamrick died of stab wounds received in a cutting affray in January, 1955. Two people were arrested soon after the killing.

The Vance post office, after operating more than seventy years, was closed by order of the Post Office Department in February, 1955. At the time of its close, E. D. (Doc) Pannell was the Vance postmaster, having held that office continuously for thirty-five years.

Twenty Edwards County people signed up in February, 1955, to take part in a movie to be filmed at Fort Clark. \$17.50 a day was paid for horseback riders, \$10.00 for footmen. Some 300 or 400 residents of the area were put to work in the project as extras.

L. J. Dean, John Holman, Arthur Beck, G. C. Hutcherson, Lent Wells, and Jessie Lockhart were selected as the Board of Trustees of the newly consolidated school district, resulting from the merger of the Camp Wood and Barksdale districts.

Claud Erwin received the appointment as postmaster of Rocksprings in March, 1956.

W. W. (Bill) Webb was elected superintendent of the newly consolidated Nueces Canyon School in April, 1955.

The Rocksprings Telephone Company was verbally awarded a loan of \$550,000 in 1955 by the RFA, for rebuilding its telephone system. Plans were made to put up new lines and establish a dial system, one exchange being located at Barksdale, one at Camp Wood, and one at Rocksprings.

A lighted football field for Nueces Canyon School was installed in Camp Wood in 1955. All indoor sports for the new school system would be played at Barksdale, and all outdoor sports at Camp Wood under the consolidation agreement.

Ernest E. Varga died in a car accident near Carta Valley in May, 1955.

The Upper Nueces-Frio Soil Conservation District was organized in 1955. The event was celebrated by a barbecue at Vance, where many representatives from over the district gathered to hear the guest speaker discuss the work of the new organization.

Claud Gilmer was selected president of the Nueces

Valley River Water Conservation Board in an organizational meeting at Corpus Christi in June, 1955.

Seven of the eight members of the 1919 graduating class of Rocksprings High School were present at the Annual Homecoming in July, 1955. They were Mrs. Lorene Morriss Carpenter, Mrs. Grace Benskin Ogilvy, Mrs. Georgia Carson Gilmer, Claud Gilmer, Harold Hough, Clarence Whitworth, and Frank Wilson. Miss Myrtle Young was unable to attend.

Alice Jane Mays took part in the trek of the "Last Command," riding her horse "Sid Wheat."

Mrs. Loyd Whittley and Mrs. Jess Whittley rode a buggy in the cavalcade on its march from Brackettville to San Antonio.

O. L. McNealy joined the train in Hondo to drive a wagon in the parade.

Record floods occurred on the Nueces in 1955. New high water marks were set in many places, and homes were flooded in places never before reached by floodwaters.

A new mail route from Camp Wood to Barksdale after the flood covered ninety-nine miles. The route was by way of Rocksprings, the Prade ranch, and Leahey to Camp Wood.

Flood damage in the upper Canyon area was estimated at \$160,000. This estimate included 12,000 sheep, 500 cattle, and 1250 goats.

In 1955, the Nueces Canyon Panthers won seven games and lost one in their season's play. They were co-district champs, along with La Pryor.

Uranium was discovered on the Lowell Jessup ranch in Edwards County in 1955.

Edwards County showed a total of thirty-nine businesses in 1955, according to a report put out by Dun and Bradstreet.

The Rocksprings basketball girls were district champs of 84-B in 1956 for the first time in history, winning twenty-seven games out of thirty played. They later played Natalia for bi-district honors, winning by a score of 57-34.

The Rocksprings Board of Trustees voted, in their March, 1956 meeting, to spend \$4000 to light the local football field.

Rocksprings girls' basketball team lost the regional play-off to Navarro High School, by a score of 38-39.

A total of \$105,000 was approved in 1956 for the extension of the Farm Market Road 2378 from Vance to Hackberry in 1956.

Twelve students graduated from the Nueces Canyon High School in 1956.

The new building for the Rocksprings post office was formally dedicated June 26, 1956.

The old Cloudt cattle brand was a heart 2.

Harvey Jackson Dean, owner of the Canyon Telephone system from 1927 to 1956, died of a heart attack while attending the Alto Frio Baptist encampment in July, 1956.

Mrs. Ned Bishop was killed in a car accident in July, 1956, when the car in which she and her husband and young son were riding overturned after striking a deer on the road. Mrs. Bishop was the former Betty Sawyers, who came with her parents to the Canyon in 1923, where her father, C. W. Sawyers, assumed his duties as pastor of the Canyon Baptist churches.

J. E. Bramlett resigned as superintendent of the Rocksprings School in 1956. The school's principal, Paul Barr, was elected to the position vacated by Mr. Bramlett.

Tom Henderson was elected sheriff of Edwards County in 1956. Clarence Martin was elected as tax assessor-collector; Sam Hough, county attorney; T. L. Speck, commissioner, precinct No. 1; N. E. Varga, precinct No. 3; and Frankie Lee Wood, precinct No. 2.

The construction of the new \$35,000 Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Rocksprings was begun in August, 1956.

320 students enrolled in the Rocksprings School in 1956.

Claud Gilmer was selected in 1956 by the Real and Edwards county teachers as the outstanding layman who has contributed most to education in Texas.

The Soil Bank Conservation program was inaugurated in Edwards County in 1956.

The city of Rocksprings added a new water well to supplement its existing water reserve in 1956.

Rev. J. N. Coffman was called as pastor of the Rocksprings Baptist Church in 1956.

The Nueces Canyon Panthers won their first regional championship in 1956 when they defeated the Hutto team on the Hutto gridiron, 60 to 47. The twelve games played during the season grossed the club over \$2000.

A building program was proposed in 1957 for the Rocksprings School District by the issue of \$80,000 of bonds for construction of a new high school building and cafeteria.

The Nueces Canyon boys' and girls' basketball teams won the district title in their respective districts in 1957. Rock-

springs' boys finished in second place in the district.

The \$80,000 school bond election carried in Rocksprings by a vote of 150 to 6.

Mort Haby was appointed county agent for Edwards County in March of 1957.

Nueces Canyon boys won their bi-district championship in basketball in 1957 by defeating Sabinal. The girls lost to the Sabinal team.

Construction work on the dial telephone system of the Rocksprings Telephone Company was progressing according to schedule in March of 1957.

The Park Well in the Rocksprings water system ran a test of 968 gallons per minute without breaking its flow, in March, 1957.

Nueces Canyon won first in their district track meet in 1957. Rocksprings won first place in the one-act play contest.

A 4H club was organized in Edwards County in 1957.

Bids received on the proposed new high school and cafeteria for Rocksprings exceeded the amount of the bond issue, and plans for the buildings were revised to bring the bids within the limits of the \$80,000.

The Uvalde County Commissioners Court in 1957 O.K.ed the building of a dam near Arnold Crossing on the Nueces River, for the purpose of flood control.

W. A. Hatchett and Gonzales Fernandez received flesh wounds on September 2, 1957, when Fernandez resisted arrest in front of the jail and engaged in a skirmish for Hatchett's gun.

Deputy Sheriff Hatchett was called to the Latin-American quarter of town to investigate a condition termed "disturbing the peace." He arrested a Mexican, age twenty-two, and was putting him in jail when the man seized Hatchett's special .38 pistol. In the skirmish for the gun, the Mexican received one flesh wound. He got possession of the gun, and fired at Hatchett three times, hitting him the first time and missing the last two shots. The Mexican escaped after the shooting.

Sheriff Henderson put up roadblocks, but Fernandez did not try to leave town, and entered the hospital after daylight for treatment of his wound. He was placed in jail after his dismissal from the hospital.

Items from the Rocksprings *Rustler*, 1898:

J. L. Lockley sold to Dan Parker on the 12th 175 head of mixed cattle at \$15.00 per head. To J. W. Ralston he sold 75 head of stock horses at \$7.00 per head.

Under the management of Prof. Broyles who is ably assisted by Miss Annie Ker and Mrs. M. Clymer, our school promises to be second to none in West Texas.

Mr. M. M. Parkerson is in the Canyon and you can hardly tell him from one of the boys when you see him at a play party. By the way, we have a new play down here called 'The Divide Play'.

From the "Milk Maid's" column head, the Barksdale *Budget*.

Julian J. Gill's ad stated the government tax of 21½ per cent will not advance the price of his goods. But he must charge additional if it goes to the ledger.

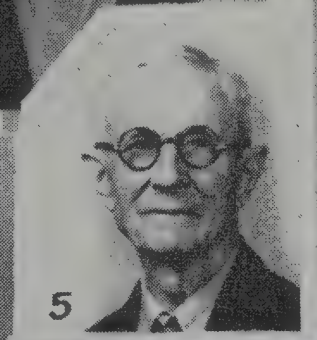
Work was begun on the road from Vance to Hackberry in October of 1957.

Rev. J. P. King of Rocksprings was appointed chaplain for the South Texas Wolf Hunter's Association on October of 1957.

Nueces Canyon won the Region Six title for the second consecutive year when they defeated the Hutto Hippos on the local gridiron by a score of 66-32.

January 5, 1958, was the date set for the dedication of the new High School building in Rocksprings, provided for by the sale of bonds.

The Rural Improvement Club was organized in the Canyon in 1957, for the purpose of beautifying the Canyon, and publicizing its beauty-spots and places of interest. The HD club was the local sponsor of the project.



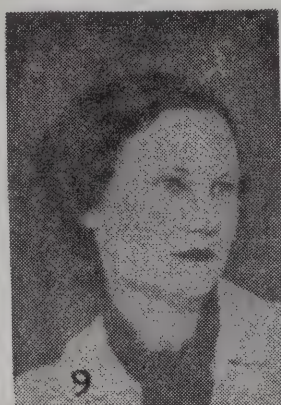
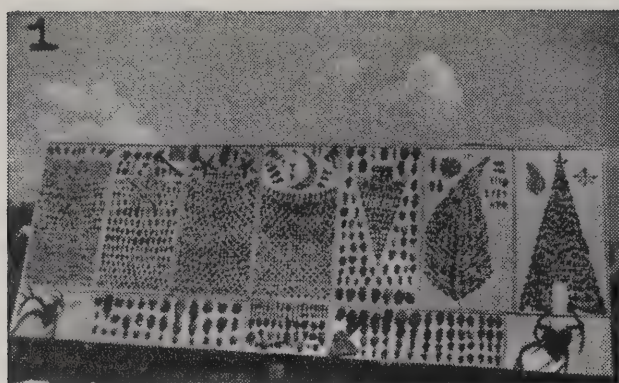
1. Theo Fisher 2. Mrs. Theo Fisher 3. Gaston Sanderlin and Gaston Hatley 4. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Young, and grandchildren 5. Dr. J. W. Eads 6. Mrs. J. W. Eads 7. The Jeff McFatter family 8. Back row: Rob Fred, Bob Barrows, Frank Sweeten, Jess Gilmer, Carrie Henry, Ollie Smart, Bro. Silman, Mrs. Silman, Mrs. Garvin. 2nd row: Ethel Pope, Clara Shurley, _____, Nona Sweeten, Delia Lacey, Mrs. Paul Rosenow, Mrs. Rob Fred, Mrs. Rosenow, _____, Mrs. Dennis Pope, Dora Hamrick, Minnie France. 1st row: Augusta Austin, Mrs. Jack Whitworth, Mrs. Wes Benskin, Mrs. Stieber, Mrs. Ed Young, Mrs. Shurley, Mrs. Burney 9. Mr. and Mrs. W D. Reagan, Laura May, Harvey, and Lillie Lee 10. The W. D. Sutherland family: John D., William, Sam, Robert, Laura May, Mrs. Sutherland, Gail, Viola, Virgil, Keith, Malcom, Lesesne



1. The Edgar Burleson family 2. The Stovall family: Thelma, Bonnie Belle, Josie, Lula, Hettie, Rogers, Mabel; picture taken by Allan 3. Camp Wood railway station, Jimmy Dean 4. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sweeten 5. Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Dean 6. Gladys Patrick 7. The George Wall family: Frank, Nora, Bessie, Bill, Vida May, Pete (not pictured), Della (deceased) 8. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Guthrie 9. The Ira Welch family 10. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Roberts 11. The John D. Sutherland family: Mr. and Mrs. Vivian Giroux (Johnny Jean), Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Scott (Catherine), and children



1. Marvin, Marcus, Merlin, and Melvin O'Bryant 2. Mrs. Charles Patrick 3. Mrs. W. D. Sutherland 4. W. D. Sutherland 5. The J. R. Sweeten family 6. Mrs. Sallie Beck 7. J. F. (Jim) Rhodes 8. The Wood family. Back row: Belle, Ollie, Delia Craig, Lum. 1st row: Pete, Hugh, Joe, John Thomas, Wallace, Tom 9. T. A. Rowden, Jr., Luther McFerran and Adele Rowden 10. Vacation Bible School group, Barksdale Baptist Church, 1948. Standing: Tike Burleson, John Stewart, Attlee Stovall, Reavis Estes, Clarence Lewis Vernor, Francis Bain, Sylvia Hobbs, Bonnye Stovall, Lucille Field, Luke Burleson, Virginia Estes, Bobby Wayne Hatley, Merle Whitley, Netherland girls. Sitting: Peggy Jernigan, Clariace Vernor, Ann Stovall, Juanita Loverchek, Carol Ann Stewart, Blalack boy



1. From the Hibbitts Indian Collection (Page 436), reproduced through the courtesy of W. H. Hibbitts 2. Anne Stovall 3. Five generations: Mrs. Sam Field, Mrs. Lee Allison, Mrs. Jerry Burleson, Mrs. Forace Burleson, Hershel Burleson 4. O. C. Henderson 5. Mrs. O. C. Henderson 6. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes Puett 7. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Newman 8. John (Bunk) Wood 9. Ethel Wood 10. John Stewart, Atlee Stovall, and Reavis Estes

Appendix

THE FIRST 79 MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED IN EDWARDS COUNTY:

| <i>Names of Parties</i> | <i>Place</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Performed By</i> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| A. J. Johnson-Miss Lucy Sweeten | Bullhead | Feb. 16, 1884 | D. W. Burleson |
| E. W. Brown-Miss Nettie Johnson | Bullhead | Mar. 3, 1884 | D. W. Burleson |
| Wm. White-Ophelia Rupse | Bullhead | April 13, 1884 | L. S. Cox |
| W. H. Harrell-Mell Martha M. Denton | Leakey | May 31, 1884 | Thos. I. Ramsey |
| Elihu Joy-Nancy A. York | Bullhead | May 2, 1884 | D. D. Thompson |
| D. E. Shackelford-Ida Bullard | Leakey | Mar. 3, 1884 | L. S. Cox |
| Mr. Huelon Cappies-Mrs. S. S. Maner | Leakey | Aug. 4, 1884 | |
| Herman Fleischer-Mrs. E. C. Clark | Leakey | Sept. 4, 1884 | |
| Adam Kobes-Josephine Herron | Leakey | Oct. 7, 1884 | J. C. Pyle |
| M. T. Wallace-Melissa Petty | Leakey | Oct. 22, 1884 | Thos. Ramsey |
| A. Warner-Mrs. C. M. Dublin | Leakey | Nov. 12, 1884 | Thos. Ramsey |
| J. C. Uzzell-Miss Lela Salome Cox | Leakey | Nov. 14, 1884 | |
| Francis C. Batter-Elizabeth Buchanan | Leakey | Dec. 11, 1884 | |
| Wiley E. Basham-Miss Annie P. Lerry | Leakey | Dec. 15, 1884 | |
| Felix L. Mitler-Miss C. H. Dalton | Leakey | Jan. 1, 1885 | L. S. Cox |
| L. W. Scott-Salurio Fanner | Leakey | Jan. 13, 1885 | P. H. Cowherd |
| J. B. Huffman-Georgia U. Boone | Leakey | Jan. 30, 1885 | B. F. Arnold |
| John Stroope-Elizabeth Odle | Leakey | Jan. 30, 1885 | W. J. Hobbs |
| Thos. C. Gravis-Francis Cooper | Leakey | Apr. 18, 1885 | L. S. Cox |
| L. Steadhun-Mrs. S. J. Clouch | Leakey | July 10, 1885 | D. W. Burleson |
| Ramon Gomez-Andrew Lopez | Leakey | July 13, 1885 | B. E. Arnold |
| J. W. Baker-Miss Ella Sugart | Leakey | Dec. 30, 1885 | L. S. Cox |
| Eurmann Lahance-Candelaria Contreras | Leakey | Apr. 3, 1886 | W. J. Hobbs |
| D. E. Huffman-Lena L. Simpson | Leakey | July 31, 1885 | L. S. Cox |
| Chas. Hokett-Mary L. Boles | Leakey | Aug. 14, 1885 | T. M. York |
| James Chapman-Katie Miller | Leakey | Nov. 14, 1885 | W. J. Hobbs |
| Willie Payne-Emma Kelly | Leakey | Nov. 18, 1885 | L. W. Edwards |
| W. M. Miller-S. F. Quick | Leakey | Dec. 22, 1885 | L. S. Cox |
| Calvin A. Boales-Mrs. K. A Rawlings | Leakey | Jan. 12, 1886 | L. S. Cox |
| L. L. Hext-Martha A. Crooms | Leakey | Jan. 22, 1886 | D. W. Burleson |
| M. S. Cape-Mrs. M. J. Waskom | Leakey | May 1, 1886 | W. J. Hobbs |
| J. H. McDonald-A. M. Strong | Leakey | May 1, 1886 | G. Stieber |
| Tobe Lacey-Susan B. James | Leakey | July 20, 1886 | W. J. Hobbs |
| Sterling Fisher-Susie M. Harper | Leakey | Aug. 7, 1886 | D. W. Fly |
| W. M. Menges-Miss Melvina McDonald | Leakey | Sept. 2, 1886 | G. Stieber |
| R. Dawson-Leyette Ackerly | Leakey | Nov. 6, 1886 | G. Stieber |
| William R. Terry-Virginia E. Cauthers | Leakey | Nov. 20, 1886 | G. Stieber |
| W. McClelland-Miss F. A. Stockman | Leakey | Dec. 20, 1886 | G. Stieber |
| R. A. Jernigan-Ludia N. Janes | Leakey | Dec. 22, 1886 | W. J. Hobbs |

| <i>Names of Parties</i> | <i>Place</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Performed By</i> |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Jessie Kiser-Nancy Holt | Leakey | Dec. 27, 1886 | T. W. Uzzell |
| A. J. Brice-Miss Sallie Stidham | Leakey | Dec. 21, 1886 | M. J. Hobbs |
| L. M. Ratliff-Lizzie Walson | Leakey | Feb. 4, 1887 | B. F. Amola |
| C. H. Stillwell-Miss Bettie Sweeten | Leakey | Feb. 10, 1887 | G. Stieber |
| J. J. Boone-Miss Evaline Huffman | Leakey | Feb. 21, 1887 | L. S. Cox |
| Isage H. Jennings-Mary R. Smith | Leakey | May 25, 1887 | R. Galbrath |
| G. W. Anderson-Callie Stockman | Leakey | May 28, 1887 | M. H. Cowan |
| R. H. Welch-Mollie Chant | Leakey | Sept. 8, 1887 | M. H. Cowan |
| W. F. Sheffield-Emma Rhodes | Leakey | Nov. 9, 1887 | G. Stieber |
| John A. Barnes-Mary Sweeten | Leakey | Nov. 14, 1887 | J. V. E. Covey |
| Arise W. Pullen-Fannie Epps | Leakey | Dec. 17, 1887 | G. Stieber |
| Ed Hill-Sarah E. Pope | Leakey | Dec. 17, 1887 | G. Stieber |
| A. S. Payne-Annie Burditt | Leakey | Dec. 23, 1887 | L. S. Cox |
| J. D. Eaton-M. A. Ellis | Leakey | Dec. 24, 1887 | D. D. Thompson |
| John Nelson-Martha L. Cromeans | Leakey | Dec. 31, 1887 | M. H. Cowan |
| R. Grigsby-Virginia Hertton | Leakey | Jan. 11, 1888 | L. S. Cox |
| William P. Pullen-Mrs. Ella Nations | Leakey | Jan. 14, 1888 | G. Stieber |
| John L. Stroppe-Elizabeth Odle | Leakey | Jan. 31, 1888 | W. J. Hobbs |
| T. J. P. Reavis-Sarah J. Roberts | Leakey | Feb. 20, 1888 | Cowan |
| J. E. Thayer-J. E. Reeves | Leakey | May 10, 1888 | J. T. Pyle |
| Sam M. Highsmith-Miss Amanda Medert | Leakey | Aug. 7, 1888 | W. J. Hobbs |
| D. B. Kent-Mrs. Margaret Weldrope | Leakey | Oct. 6, 1888 | W. J. Hobbs |
| Ed Bell-Bettie Burdett | Leakey | Oct. 16, 1888 | Rev. F. J. Perrin |
| S. B. Austin-Gussie Leakey | Leakey | May 31, 1888 | L. S. Cox |
| T. Price-Miss M. Horton | Leakey | Nov. 13, 1888 | J. P. Pyle |
| Albert Kriser-Lillie Kelso | Leakey | Sept. 29, 1888 | L. Stieber |
| D. J. Burleson-Mary Baker | Leakey | Nov., 1888 | D. W. Burleson |
| N. M. Taylor-Melvina Strong | Leakey | Nov. 29, 1888 | D. W. Burleson |
| J. F. Roberts-Carrie Miller | Leakey | Dec. 5, 1888 | L. S. Cox |
| J. L. Anderson-M. J. Billings | Leakey | Dec. 27, 1888 | D. W. Burleson |
| J. P. Parker-M. F. Quick | Leakey | Dec. 5, 1888 | L. S. Cox |
| R. H. Thompson-M. E. Cummings | Leakey | Jan. 17, 1889 | L. S. Cox |
| W B. Parkerson-Mrs. Amelia Matthews | Leakey | | G. Stieber |
| J. H. Arnold-S. E. Boales | Leakey | Feb. 1, 1889 | L. S. Cox |
| S. P. Keynon-Lizzie Collins | Leakey | Feb. 1, 1889 | L. S. Cox |
| Jules Marvie Henri Lavre-Katie K. Jennings | Leakey | Mar. 6, 1889 | R. Galbrath |
| J. E. Chapman-Laura Thurman | Leakey | Nov. 7, 1889 | Andrew Cox |
| O. G. Coalson-Martha Wilty | Leakey | Dec. 30, 1889 | G. Stieber |
| W. T. Cromeans-Sarah E. Taylor | Leakey | Feb. 22, 1890 | A. G. Taylor |
| T. S. Gray-Nina Terry | Leakey | Feb. 28, 1891 | G. W. Martin |

FIRST COURT SESSION ON RECORD, VOL. II
MINUTES, DISTRICT COURT,
EDWARDS COUNTY, TEXAS

The State of Texas
County of Edwards

Be it remembered that at a regular term of the Hon. Dis-

strict Court begun and holden in and for the County of Edwards at the courthouse thereof in the town of Leakey on the 12th day of November, AD 1888. There was present and presiding, Hon. Winchester Kelso, District Judge 41st Judicial Dist. Walter Gillis — Dist. Atty. 41st Dist. W. J. Sansom, Sheriff Edwards County, Texas. Thomas Cunningham, Clerk, Dist. Court, Edwards County, Texas.

The Court was duly opened by the sheriff.

The list of Grand Jurors regularly drawn as provided by law, having been returned into court, the following named persons appeared and answered to their names, to wit: Sam Thurman, T. P. Rhodes, J. L. Nix, W. J. Shackelford, W. J. Greer, D. W. Burleson, Sam Raney, W. P. Rose, Lem Henderson, T. F. Dietert, Frank Batton, James Barksdale.

Who having been tried on this Fairdere and found qualified were sworn, empanelled, and charged by the Court to serve as grand jurors at this term of the Court in the manner required by law, the Court appointed J. L. Nix one of said jurors, and they retired in charge of the proper officer to consider of their findings.

The following named persons were appointed by the Court to serve as Bailiffs for the Grand Jury to wit. I. R. Cox, James Kelso who were sworn as Bailiffs in the manner prescribed by law by the court.

The list of petit jurors drawn in the manner provided by law having been returned into Court were called and the following named persons appeared and answered to their names to wit: A. A. McDonald, J. D. Arocena, Sam Wright, G. T. May, John Pope, J. F. Rhodes, David Soloman, L. D. Allison, W. A. Uzzell, W. M. Thurman, Will Terry, J. C. Spencer, Jim Welty, J. P. Jones, Frank Kelly, M. G. Forbes, Benjamin Ellis, C. C. Dugat, Frank Dolson, Buck Green, A. J. Cromeans, Calvin Boales, Henry Kirchner, A. Benton, John G. McKee, Herman Fleischer, J. B. Huffman, Chas. Pope, David Bell, W. R. Billings, Daniel Taylor, A. J. Crow, Sam Grantland, C. J. Jarvis, W. A. Buchanan, W. B. Kirchner, J. D. Eaton.

Who having been tried on their vois dire and found qualified were duly empanelled as petit jurors to serve for the 1st week of the term of this court.

The criminal docket was thereupon taken up and the following proceedings were had to wit:

No. 88, The State of Texas versus W. M. Gorman, murder. In the cause comes the defendent in his own proper

person and in open court waives the presentment of an alias indictment by the Grand Jurors of this county into court on account of destruction of minutes of this Court showing the presentment of the indictment now on file in this court in the above cause and upon agreement of State and defendant to try this cause on the indictment originally filed herein. It is ordered by the court that said cause stand for trial on said indictment as now filed herein as agreed upon in open court by council for State and defendant in person.

The state of Texas, versus W. M. Gorman, November 12, 1888, murder.

This day come on to be heard the motion of the State for a special venire herein and the same having been heard and considered by the Court the said motion is granted and it is ordered by the Court that the clerk do forthwith issue a writ commanding the Sheriff of this Edwards County to summon the fifty persons whose names appear on the list and ten additional persons — qualified jurors to be attached to said writ to be and appear before the District Court of said Edwards County now in session at the courthouse of said county on the 16th day of November, 1888, Friday at 8 o'clock A.M. which said time is set for the trial of this cause then and there to serve as jurors in the trial of said cause which said writ shall be returned on the 15th day of Nov. 1888, A.D.

Notice was given in open court that the criminal docket would be taken up tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock for the trial of causes.

Thursday morning, November 13th, 1888, 9 o'clock A.M. there were present the same as yesterday the civil docket being taken up the following proceedings were had.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| The State of Texas | offense murder |
| No. 88 Versus | Disposition of case verdict not guilty |
| W. M. Gorman | Tried and finally disposed at May terms, 1889. |

PROBATE COURT

VOL. II, MINUTES, PROBATE COURT

EDWARDS COUNTY, TEXAS

No. 1. Estate of James Malloy — Deceased. It having been made known to the County Judge of Edwards County,

Texas on this the 2nd day of October, 1888 that the estate of James Malloy deceased required an immediate appointment of an administrator and that G. Stieber a resident citizen of Barksdale is a suitable person. Therefore be it and it is hereby ordered that G. Stieber is hereby appointed temporary administrator with the following powers: to wit shall collect and take charge of all effects known to him as belonging to said estate and care for same and together with J. R. Sweeten and J. L. Nix render under oath a complete inventory of items and value and he shall enter into bond in the sum of five hundred dollars and take the oath prescribed by Art, 1887 RS. attest

D. D. Thompson
County Judge, Edwards Co. Tex.

No. I. Estate of James Malloy

It appearing to the court that it would be to the advantage of the estate to continue in force until the next regular term of this Court. approved,

D. D. Thompson
Co. Judge

Edwards County Court January term 1889
Estate of James Malloy, No. I

G. Stieber temporary administrator. Now comes G. Stieber adm. and files his inventory of appraisment showing personal property to the amount of one hundred and twenty five dollars and on petition of B. A. McGonagill, G. Stieber is made and constituted by this court permanent administrator of the estate and that he be required to enter into bond in the sum of five hundred dollars as such.

Estate of James Malloy, Deceased, No. I
Appointment of temporary administrator
Estate of James Malloy deceased.

In appearing to the county judge of Edwards County, Texas, on this the 2nd day of Oct. 1888 that the estate of James Malloy deceased required an. ditto first form.

To Cunningham Co. Clerk

The State of Texas I, Thomas Cunningham, clerk, County

of Edwards, do hereby certify that the order as it out on the reverse hereof has been duly recorded on this 1st page Probate Minutes Edwards County on the 11th day of October, A.D., 1888.

Thos. Cunningham, clerk
Co. Court, Edwards Co., Texas

The State of Texas

County of Edwards, know all men by these present that we G. Stieber as principal and J. F. Kelly and D. Cryer as sureties are held and firmly bound into the county judge of Edwards County and his successors in office in the sum of (\$500) dollars conditioned that the above bound G. Stieber who has been appointed temporary administrator by the county judge at the October term of the county court of said county of the estate of James Malloy deceased shall well and truly perform all the duties required of him under said appointment.

G. Stieber
D. Cryer \$250.00
J. F. Kelly \$250.00

I do solemnly swear that James Malloy died without leaving any lawful wife so far as I know or believe and that I will well and truly perform all the duties of administrator of the estate of said deceased James Malloy.

G. Stieber

Subscribed and sworn to before me John A. Barnes a Notary Public in and for said County this 26th day of October A. D. 1888.

Jno. A. Barnes Notary
Public Edwards Co. Texas

Estate No. 1
James Malloy deceased

List of property appraised belonging to the estate of James Malloy deceased.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| I set blacksmith tools | \$ 30.00 |
| 1 set wheelwright tools | 10.00 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 1 pr. blankets | 3.00 |
| 1 lot tinware and coffee mill | 1.00 |
| 1 lot horseshoe nails | 3.00 |
| 1 lot horseshoe nails | 7.00 |
| 1 lot old iron and wagon timber and shovel | 2.50 |
| 1 cot | 1.00 |
| 1 water bucket | .15 |
| 1 lot old lumber and cedar poles | 5.00 |
| 1 jennet and colt | 8.00 |
| 1 house and lot | 50.00 |
| 1 counter and shelves | 5.00 |
| 1 old axe | \$.25 |
| | <hr/> \$125.00 |

We the undersigned appraisers hereby certify that the above inventory and appraisalment is true and correct. Witness our hands this the 26th day of Nov., 1888, at Barksdale.

G. Stieber
J. L. Nix
J. R. Sweeten

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of November, 1888.

John A. Barnes

Estate of James Malloy deceased, No. I.

Now in this case comes on for further consideration to petition of D. A. McGonagill to appoint G. Stieber permanent administrator of this estate and it appearing to the Court that the heirs of said estate (if there are any) are unknown it is therefore ordered that the clerk issue citation by publication according to law in the *Uvalde News* returnable to the next term of this Court when said petition will be acted upon.

John A. Barnes
Co. Judge, Edwards Co.

attest
Wm. Sanford Co., Clerk

EDWARDS COUNTY OFFICERS — 1936-1958

Nov., 1936-37: J. L. Johnson, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; Ed Young, sheriff; Mrs. J. E. Rogers, treasurer; John Hill,

county attorney. Commissioners: J. C. Pope, precinct 2; W. A. Chapman, precinct 3; C. V. Whitworth, precinct 4; J. I. Brown, precinct 1.

Nov., 1938: J. L. Johnson, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; Ed Young, sheriff; Mrs. J. E. Rogers, treasurer; Sam A. Hough, Jr., county attorney. Commissioners: J. S. Brown, precinct 1; J. C. Pope, precinct 2; W. A. Chapman, precinct 3; C. V. Whitworth, precinct 4. W. Y. Levensailor, constable, precinct 2; Alvin Perkins, J. P., precinct 2.

Nov. 1940: J. L. Johnson, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; E. S. Young, sheriff; Mrs. J. E. Rogers, treasurer; Sam A. Hough, Jr., county attorney. Commissioners: F. A. Moody, precinct 3; C. V. Whitworth, precinct 4; Byron Roberts, J. P., precinct 2; Joe Casey, constable, precinct 2.

Nov., 1942: J. L. Johnson, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; R. R. Corder, sheriff; Mrs. Viola Hester, treasurer; Sam A. Hough, county attorney. Commissioners: F. A. Moody, precinct 1; J. C. Pope, precinct 2; E. Varga, precinct 3; C. V. Whitworth, precinct 4. J. A. Henry, J. P., precinct 1; Earl Custer, constable, precinct 1; H. R. Perkins, constable, precinct 2.

Nov., 1944: J. L. Johnson, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; R. R. Corder, sheriff; Mrs. Viola Hester, treasurer; Howard Mays, county attorney. Commissioners: F. A. Moody, precinct 1; M. F. Thompson, precinct 2; E. Varga, precinct 3; W. G. Brown, precinct 4.

Nov., 1946-47: J. L. Johnson, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; R. R. Corder, sheriff; Mrs. Hattie Goodwin, treasurer; Sam A. Hough, county attorney. Commissioners: F. A. Moody, precinct 1; M. F. Thompson, precinct 2; E. Varga, precinct 3; W. G. Brown, precinct 4. Louis Strackbeen, J. P. precinct 1; Bob Feyn, constable, precinct 1. Johnny Johnson Sweeten served out unexpired term of her father, J. L. Johnson, deceased.

Nov., 1948: Sam A. Hough, Jr., judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; Mrs. Hattie Goodwin, treasurer; R. R. Corder, sheriff. Commissioners: W. E. Thurman, precinct 1; Joe W. Wood, precinct 2; E. Varga, precinct 3; W. G. Brown, precinct 4.

Nov., 1950: H. W. Bierschwale, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; R. R. Corder, sheriff; Hattie Goodwin, treasurer. Commissioners: W. E. Thurman, precinct 1; Joe W. Wood, precinct 2; E. Varga, precinct 3; Joe Carl Hyde, precinct 4. Sam A. Hough, attorney.

Nov. 1952: H. W. Beirschwale, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; Dor Brown, sheriff; Sam A. Hough, attorney; Hattie Good-

win, treasurer; Ned Bishop, surveyor. Commissioners: Frank Cloudt, precinct 1; Frankie Lee Wood, precinct 2; E. Varga, precinct 3; Joe Carl Hyde, precinct 4; J. M. Smart, J. P., precinct 1; S. L. Guthrie, constable, precinct 1.

Nov., 1954: Horace Brown, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; Dor Brown, sheriff; Hattie Goodwin, treasurer; Sam A. Hough, attorney. Commissioners: J. F. Gardner, precinct 1; Frankie L. Wood, precinct 2; E. Varga, precinct 3; Joe Carl Hyde, precinct 4.

Nov., 1956: Horace Brown, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; Hattie Goodwin, treasurer; Tom Henderson, sheriff. Commissioners: Fred L. Speck, precinct 1; Frankie L. Wood, precinct 2; E. Varga, precinct 5; Joe Carl Hyde, precinct 4.

Nov., 1958: Thomas Glasscock, judge; E. I. Miller, clerk; Tom Henderson, sheriff; Mrs. Hattie Goodwin, treasurer; Clarence Martin, tax assessor and collector. Commissioners: Fred L. Speck, precinct 1; Marshall Craig, precinct 2; E. Varga, precinct 3; Joe Carl Hyde, precinct 4.

REAL COUNTY OFFICERS IN THE PERIOD 1933-1958

County judges: A. G. Wells, 1933-1946, inc.; W. B. Sansom, 1937-1958, inc.

Sheriffs: Jack Boales, 1933-1942, inc.; T. T. Shockley, 1943-1948 inc.; Herbert Cox, 1949-1950; Gates Wright, 1951-1958.

County clerks: George Field, 1933-1934, inc.; Ross Powers, 1935-1946, inc.; Lucille Bendele, 1947-1958.

County treasurers: Ora E. Tom, 1933-1942; Zula Hill, 1943-1958.

County assessors: T. A. Godbold, 1933-1934; Mrs. Sally Godbold, 1934-1958.

County commissioners, Main Nueces side of County: J. W. Gildart, 1933-; T. T. Shockley, 1933-1937; Gates Wright, 1943-1950; J. B. Hutto, 1951-1958; L. N. (Nemo Webb), 1938-1942.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL IN THE NUECES CANYON AREA OVER A PERIOD OF SEVENTY-EIGHT YEARS.

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1877 | 30.29 | 1918 | 20.00 |
| 1878 | 39.60 | 1919 | 13.73 |
| 1879 | 22.80 | 1920 | 33.68 |
| 1880 | 41.91 | 1921 | 12.24 |

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1881 | 26.78 | 1922 | 19.92 |
| 1882 | 36.39 | 1923 | 38.51 |
| 1883 | | 1924 | 15.17 |
| 1884 | | 1925 | 19.50 |
| 1885 | | 1926 | 20.95 |
| 1886 | 26.72 | 1927 | 29.84 |
| 1887 | 20.13 | 1928 | 15.68 |
| 1888 | 40.55 | 1929 | 15.68 |
| 1889 | 38.96 | 1930 | 16.32 |
| 1890 | 29.79 | 1931 | 30.61 |
| 1891 | 30.04 | 1932 | 19.53 |
| 1892 | 25.81 | 1933 | 15.22 |
| 1893 | 18.24 | 1934 | 16.50 |
| 1894 | 21.75 | 1935 | 41.15 |
| 1895 | 26.07 | 1936 | 21.18 |
| 1896 | 34.09 | 1937 | 17.88 |
| 1897 | 15.92 | 1938 | 13.12 |
| 1898 | 22.49 | 1939 | 25.30 |
| 1899 | 19.65 | 1940 | 27.46 |
| 1900 | 37.19 | 1941 | 31.52 |
| 1901 | 16.44 | 1942 | 19.12 |
| 1902 | 24.79 | 1943 | 19.77 |
| 1903 | 33.11 | 1944 | 32.74 |
| 1904 | 29.38 | 1945 | 22.37 |
| 1905 | 16.44 | 1946 | 26.42 |
| 1906 | 24.79 | 1947 | 22.67 |
| 1907 | 33.11 | 1948 | 18.31 |
| 1908 | 29.38 | 1949 | 34.42 |
| 1909 | 32.59 | 1950 | 18.27 |
| 1910 | 20.42 | 1951 | 16.06 |
| 1911 | 27.77 | 1952 | 18.24 |
| 1912 | 28.57 | 1953 | 18.34 |
| 1913 | 18.18 | 1954 | 15.59 |
| 1914 | 14.82 | 1955 | 21.34 |
| 1915 | 20.14 | 1956 | 9.29 |
| 1916 | 18.21 | 1957 | 34.99 |
| 1917 | 40.75 | 1958 | |

The average for the seventy-eight-year period is 25.07 inches.

RECORD OF OFFICIALS FOR THE INCORPORATED TOWN OF ROCKSPRINGS, TEXAS.

Town of Rocksprings — Incorporated 1924.

Organization meeting presided over by M. Kirkland. City officials elected: Mayor, L. N. Lockley; Aldermen: J. L. Ballantyne, W. T. Day, H. Fleischer, Jr., Dr. J. E. Rogers.

Page Carson, city marshal; A. E. Buswell, clerk; Claudine Bourland, secretary.

Men who served as mayors are: J. N. Lockley, 1924-1927; V. A. Brown, 1928-1929; W. B. Hough, 1930-32; W. B. Singleton, 1934; W. P. Hendrix, 1935; G. C. Fleischer, 1936-1938; Warren Hutt, 1939-1944; S. O. Simpson, 1945; A. A. Cowsert, 1946-1948; M. E. Stone, 1949-1950; Louie Babb, 1951-1954; Forrest Weldon, 1955 — .

Men who served as aldermen are: J. L. Ballantyne, W. T. Day, H. Fleischer, Jr., Dr. J. E. Rogers, H. B. Griffith, T. A. Williams, W. E. Eaton, A. E. Buswell, E. F. Cloudt, C. G. Miller, E. I. Miller, D. T. Dismukes, Gus Fleischer, J. A. Miller, W. J. Muller, Monte Kirkland, F. J. Donaldson, F. J. Weldon, Joe Ragsdale, J. Croft, Aubrey Clark, Sam Hough, E. F. Boyce, B. Weaver, N. E. Fred, Lon Smart, B. F. Stieber, C. H. Gilmer, M. Bardwell, J. D. Varga, R. C. Babb, R. W. Sheppard, W. E. Thurman, N. G. Smart, Alton Owens, Sessum Couey, Maurice Gentry, Coy E. Dillard, Dan McKnight, Louie Babb, John Harris, Ivan Smart, Herbert Barrows, Ray Winans, Gus Ross, James Nunley, M. O. Smith, Troy Osborne, Horace Brown, E. R. Moore, W. R. Scoggin, Clarence Martin, Halp Merritt, H. Babb.

The following have served as city marshal of Rocksprings: Page Carson, L. W. Alexander, V. B. Ross.

Mayors *pro tem*: J. E. Rogers, Monte Kirkland, F. J. Weldon.

City secretaries have been: Claudine Bourland, Milton Gilmer, Irma Ragsdale, C. A. Tyler, Eric Lomax, H. R. Bean, Mona Franks, Mrs. Ruth Kirkland, Mary G. Lockley.

RECORD OF OFFICIALS OF EDWARDS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

The following persons have served as presidents of the Edwards County Chamber of Commerce: G. F. Lee, Lon R. Smart, Jr., M. O. Smith, Horace Brown, J. A. Miller, Neville Smart, Juhan Jenkins, C. E. Dillard, M. E. Noble, Henry W. Bierschwale, Dan McKnight, M. E. Stone, Ralph Slagle, Warren Hutt, James Wittenburg.

Secretaries of the Chamber of Commerce have been: E. I. Miller, Mrs. Monte Kirkland, Mrs. Warren Hutt, W. C. Decker, A. L. Owens, O. L. Davis.

The following is an article on the W. H. Hibbitt collection of Indian artifacts in Camp Wood, Texas.

TURNING BACK PAGES OF HISTORY

By Byrde Pearce Hamilton

*THE HIBBITTS INDIAN COLLECTION
A REVELATION OF ANCIENT HISTORY*

Five oaks ranch, Montell, Texas, September

Just as the bark of a tree reveals the age of the tree, or the strata of earth unfolds the past ages of earth formation, Indian relics tell the history of those prehistoric human races who inhabited North America before and after its discovery by Columbus and Americus Vesputious and other foreign explorers.

In those olden days before we have a record of North American history, indestructable stone artifacts were left by many tribes to reveal to the civilized people who now inhabit the old stamping grounds of the red man — the First American — the fascinating history of those prehistoric, wild, and semi-civilized races.

Among the largest and most varied individual collections of relics of the prehistoric races of primitive peoples who inhabited the great state of Texas is in the little town of Camp Wood, Real County, Texas, and owned by Mr. W. H. Hibbitts. This rare collection is housed in the Camp Wood Garage, of which Mr. Hibbitts is owner and proprietor, just across the street from Camp Wood's new City Park. Mr. Hibbitts' collection is among the outstanding points of interest which attract those interested in anthropology and archeology to Camp Wood.

DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

In this large and varied collection of more than a thousand arrowheads, spear-points and other flint, bone and sandstone Indian artifacts, will be found many rare specimens, which no doubt represent cultures for many centuries back — possibly back to the Aztec, or maybe the Acolhuan age, or possibly even before that period. The earliest history of human occupation of Mexico, of which Texas was a part, was in 1170, when the Chichemoos arrived from the North — likely migrating from this immediate section. It is a matter of historic record that the Lipan Indians inhabited the country where Camp Wood now stands, before the age of Missions, in the 16th and 17th centuries. In fact, the mission

at Camp Wood was established because Chief Cabazon of the Lipans requested it as a protection to his tribes against the bloodthirsty and warring Apaches. The name Lipan originated from the old Aztec civilization. Hence, we deduct that the Aztecs might have once roamed here before finally settling in and near Mexico City. Circumstances point to the reasonable conclusion that many of Mr. Hibbitts' rare Indian relics, excavated from a great depth, might date back to the 11th century, or before. He has in his collection one steel point which could have been possessed by Chief Cabazon, or his warriors, as it was excavated from where he had his camp at the old Mission ruins, in 1762, when the mission was first established. It is evident, from the hundreds of arrowheads and spear-points excavated here and contained in the collection, that this must have been the Lipan Chief's favorite powwow ground.

Mr. Hibbitts has worked over a period of many years to excavate his unusual collection, most of which have come from the mounds in Real County, although some have been dug from mounds, caves and burial places in Edwards and Uvalde counties. The outstanding specimens among his collection are arrowheads, spearheads, bird points, ceremonial stones, flint knives, tomahawks, flint fish gigs, awls, bone needles, fist axes, scrapers, grass knives, corner-tanged projectiles, ornaments of shell and slate, (conch shells) and many rough stone implements. A large block of sandstone with Indian pictographs carved upon it came from the wall of one of the cliff dwelling caves in this country. He also has a skull, beads and many other relics. Mr. Hibbitts says that all of these relics were the workmanship of the Lipans, Comanches, Apaches, and possibly the Kiawas and Tonkawas, as they were frequently migrating through the Edwards Plateaus region.

CAMP WOOD

The city of Camp Wood, Texas, was incorporated in 1936. First mayor of the newly incorporated city was B. J. Stewart, and among the first aldermen were H. J. Dean, J. Ralph Stewart, Z. T. Vernor, J. W. Gildart, and J. C. Haws (Gen. Mgr. of U&S Railway). Other early councilmen that served either as mayor or on the city council were: Tom McGowan, J. E. Robbins, G. C. Swint, Sr., C. R. Priddy, and R. A. Field. L. J. Dean served as secretary from 1937 to

World War II; R. A. Field served as secretary during the war years. In 1946, a city council composed of aldermen L. N. Webb, Alva Carter, E. E. Gildart, S. A. Wooldrige, Alva Carter, and City Secretary-Treasurer Russell Stockman, and Mayor L. J. Dean, began a study for a new water system for Camp Wood. In 1948, plans had been completed for the purchase of the existing system and the installation of a 50,000-gallon elevated tank and tower, six-inch and eight-inch mains in the center of town, with smaller lines feeding out into the residential district, new pumping facilities at the city spring, new meters, financed by a city bond issue of \$40,000, payable over a thirty-year period at 3½ per cent interest. The vote on the bond issue question was 121 for with none against. The city now has 210 water customers in Camp Wood. Camp Wood has no city ad valorem property taxes, since the water revenue takes care of the city expenditures, including the voluntary fire department. Other citizens who have served on the city council are: T. L. Wooldrige, Joe McFatter, J. E. Greer, J. W. Mitchell, Fred Gildart, Ira Smith, Jake Gray, A. W. Mitchell, A. L. Rummell, R. J. Nelson, Alva Tucker, Irvin Suttles, John T. Wood (secretary-treasurer), Milburn Colwell. The first waterworks superintendent after the city acquired the existing system was A. R. Bullard. J. E. Bruce was appointed waterworks superintendent on January, 1948, and is the present superintendent.

NUECES CANYON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Nueces Canyon Chamber of Commerce was organized in December, 1958, with Clifton Anderson as president, Eddie Robbins as vice-president, Mrs. H. E. Easley as secretary-treasurer, and Jessie Lockhart, B. J. Stewart, C. E. Vernon, L. J. Dean, Jack Noble, and L. C. Pendley as directors.

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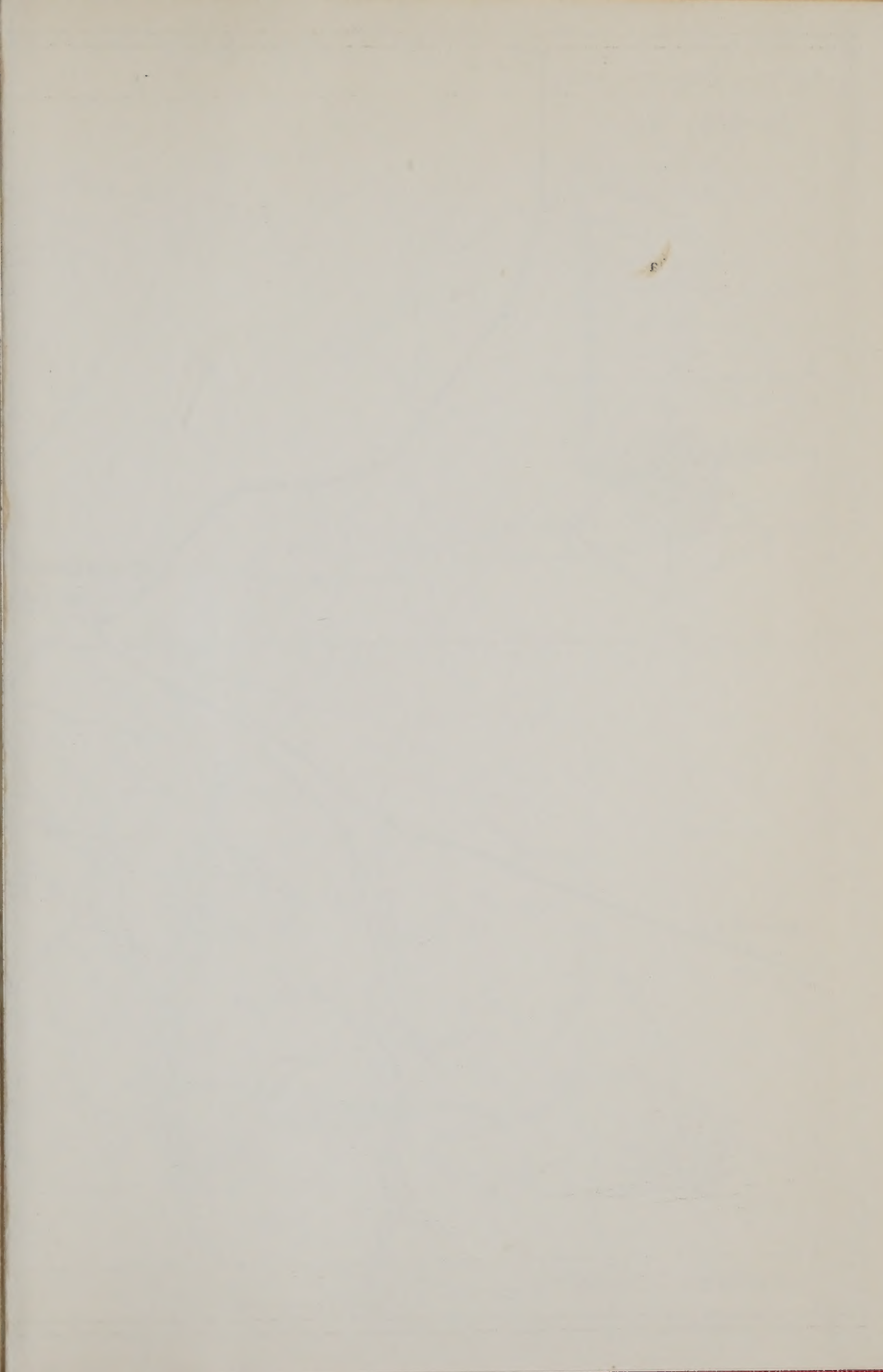
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EDWARDS COUNTY

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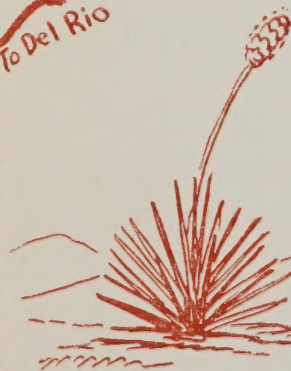
COUNTY

VAL VERDE

30°

ICARTA VALLEY

↓ To Del Rio



ELLIS

KICKAPOO

Dobbs

Dutch

Battleground

↓ To Brackettville

Ray Lake

McKenzie Lake

Turner Lake

SOUTH

ROCKSPRINGS

Indian Creek

Painted Bluff

Half Moon Prairie

Cedar

North Sp. C.

middle Sp. C.

Dry Devils River



